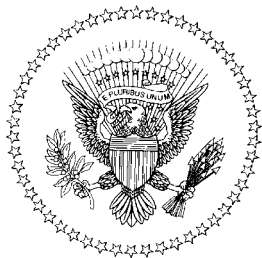


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, July 31, 2000
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Editor's Note: The President was in Providence, Rhode Island, on July 28, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, July 28, 2000

**Proclamation 7331—Parents’ Day,
2000**

July 21, 2000

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Parents play a crucial role in shaping our lives and the life of our Nation. They nurture us as infants when we are unable to help ourselves, protect us as toddlers when we wander into trouble, encourage us as adolescents when we dream about the future, and guide us as adults as we face the challenges and opportunities of our own families and careers. It is through their care that we learn the invaluable lessons of love, family, and community; and it is through their selflessness that we come to understand the joy of making a difference in the life of another.

Throughout our Administration, Vice President Gore and I have strived to provide parents with the tools they need to meet their responsibilities. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which I signed in 1993, has allowed more than 20 million Americans to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a newborn or an ailing relative without fear of losing their job. We have also worked to make child care safer, better, and more affordable for millions of families, and we have expanded preschool and after-school programs to give parents more flexibility in balancing the demands of job and family. And we have worked hard for parents to make the dream of a college education for their sons and daughters a reality—with new HOPE scholarships, more work-study opportunities, higher Pell grants, and more affordable student loans.

Parenting is a lifetime commitment and a lifetime challenge—it involves balancing the demands of family, friends, career, and community. Yet parenting is also one of life’s

greatest gifts. To hold one’s sleeping baby, watch one’s children take their first tottering steps and hear them say their first words, boast with pride about their first home run or first music recital, and witness firsthand their journey into adulthood—these are some of the most precious rewards of parenthood.

Only when we pass from childhood to adulthood can we appreciate the value of our parents and the extent of their sacrifices. For these, we owe our parents—whether biological or adoptive, stepparents or foster parents—a profound debt of gratitude. On Parents’ Day and throughout the year, let us pay tribute to America’s parents, whose unconditional love and constant devotion have helped create a bright future for the next generation.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103–362, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 23, 2000, as Parents’ Day. I call upon all Americans to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation’s parents.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 24, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 22, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 25.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan in Okinawa, Japan

July 22, 2000

Japan-U.S. Trade

Q. Mr. President, has Mr. Mori agreed to a fourth year of the trade deregulation talks with the U.S.?

President Clinton. Maybe the Prime Minister should answer that.

Prime Minister Mori. Yes, we agreed to continue the dialog for another year.

President Clinton. And I'm very pleased about that because it's, I think, been a very fruitful thing for both our countries, and I think it will—the agreements we've made here at this summit, I think, will be very positive for Japan's economy and our relationship.

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, what is your assessment of North Korea's offer to curb its missile program in exchange for space exploration assistance? Is there any reason to believe that's credible?

And Mr. Prime Minister, were you reassured by that offer?

President Clinton. Well, let me say, based on what President Putin said last night in our conversations, I think that it's something that needs to be explored, and we need to see exactly what the specifics are. I think that he would agree with that, too. It's not clear to me exactly what the offer is and what is being requested and the time for it. But I think we heard enough so that there should be an attempt to determine what the facts are here, but I can't say that I'm clear enough on what the offer was to make a final judgment.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9 a.m. at the Bankoku Shinryokan convention center. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's Radio Address

July 22, 2000

Good morning. Today I want to talk about securing our economic future by keeping our prosperity going and extending its benefits to all Americans. For more than 7 years now, our Nation has stuck to a course of fiscal discipline. We've made tough choices, paid down the national debt, invested in our people. The strategy is clearly paying off, with the longest economic expansion and the largest budget surplus in our history. Now we have the chance to pass responsible tax cuts as we continue to pursue solid economic policy.

But instead of following the sensible path that got us here, congressional Republicans are treating this surplus as if they'd won it in the lottery. Although it took 7½ years to put deficits behind us, Congress has already drained more than \$900 billion of the projected surplus on tax breaks, most of it in just the last few weeks. And they've promised to do even more, working from numbers that are nothing more than estimates from the future.

Taken together, the tax cuts passed last year and this year by this Congress would completely erase the entire projected surplus over 10 years. The majority seems to have forgotten that projections in a report are not the same as dollars in the bank.

Think of it: If someone asked you, "What is your projected income over the next 10 years? Now we want you to sign a contract committing you to spend every single penny of it right now," would you do it? Would you spend all your money now and save nothing for retirement or emergencies or educating your children? Well, that's exactly what congressional Republicans want us to do—sign away a budget surplus we don't yet have and may not get.

In good conscience I cannot sign one expensive tax break after another without any coherent strategy for safeguarding our financial future. At this rate there will be no resources left for extending the life of Social Security or Medicare, a real Medicare prescription drug benefit, investing in education, much less getting us out of debt, which is so critical to our continued economic health.

What's more, the Republican cuts provide relatively few benefits for the vast majority of our working families. They will provide more relief to the top one percent of taxpayers than to millions of working people who make up the bottom 80 percent of taxpayers. These tax breaks spend hundreds of billions of dollars and give one percent of Americans \$17,000 a piece, while most Americans get less than \$200 each. And tax cuts this large will stop us from paying down the debt, thereby raising interest rates, which will more than take away the tax cuts most Americans get in higher mortgage and interest payments.

Now, we should have tax cuts this year, but they should be the right ones, targeted to working families to help our economy grow, not tax breaks that will help only a few while putting our prosperity at risk.

That's why I've proposed a program of cuts to give middle class Americans more than twice the benefits of the Republican plan, at much less cost. Two-thirds of the relief of our proposal will go to the middle 60 percent of Americans, including my carefully targeted marriage penalty relief. My tax cuts would also help send our children to college, care for sick family members, pay for child care, ease the burden on working families with three or more children. And because my tax plan will cost substantially less than the tax cuts proposed by Congress, we'll still have enough money to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit, to strengthen Social Security, modernize Medicare, and stay on track to be debt-free in 2012.

In a way, being debt-free is the biggest tax cut of all. If we can just keep interest rates one percent lower over the next 10 years, that's worth about—way over \$250 billion in lower mortgage payments, \$150 billion in lower car payments, \$100 billion in lower student loan payments. That will benefit all Americans.

We have the resources. What we need is a common vision that extends beyond the November elections and a commitment to benefit all Americans, not just a few. That's why I've asked Congress to work with me on a balanced framework for tax cuts, investments, and debt reduction.

Throughout our history, America has been at its best when we looked to the future, when we chose the right way instead of the easy way. How we respond to this unprecedented moment of prosperity is just as great a test of our values and judgment as how we respond to adversity. Today, the right thing is for Democrats and Republicans to put election politics aside and work together to craft a 21st century budget, a framework for targeted tax cuts, responsible investments, and getting us out of debt.

This surplus comes from the hard work and ingenuity of the American people. We owe it to them to make the best use of it—for all of them, and for our children's future.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:45 p.m. on July 21 at the Manza Beach Hotel in Okinawa, Japan, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Statement on Marriage Penalty Tax Legislation

July 22, 2000

While I strongly support targeted marriage penalty relief, the marriage penalty bill promoted by Republicans in Congress is one part of a costly, poorly targeted, and regressive tax plan. This plan would risk our fiscal discipline and continued prosperity while giving more benefits to the top one percent of taxpayers than to the bottom 80 percent of all Americans. At the same time, the Congress has ignored tax cuts I have proposed for college tuition, long-term care, savings, and child care. This latest bill just passed by the Congress is even more costly than the earlier versions passed by the House and Senate. In the interest of fiscal responsibility, I will veto this and any subsequent legislation that threatens our ability to pay down the debt and strengthen Medicare and Social Security.

**Statement on Senate Confirmation
of Norman Y. Mineta as Secretary
of Commerce**

July 22, 2000

I am grateful that the Senate has acted expeditiously to confirm Norman Y. Mineta as Secretary of Commerce, and am pleased that he was sworn in to office today.

As a Member of Congress for 21 years, Mr. Mineta was a leader on trade, technology, and other issues critical to the emerging digital economy. He brings to his new post not only an in-depth understanding of American business and the needs of our high-tech economy but also a deep concern for people—especially those not yet fully participating in this economy. He will play a crucial role in keeping our economic strategy on track, opening trade around the world, investing in our people, promoting high technology, and bridging the digital divide.

Mr. Mineta also has been a passionate voice for opportunity and justice for all. Stirred by his experiences as a young boy during World War II, when he and his family were relocated to a Japanese-American internment camp, he has fought tirelessly to ensure that others are spared such injustice. I am proud to welcome him as the first Asian-Pacific American ever to hold a post in the President's Cabinet and congratulate him on his confirmation.

**Remarks to the Community at Camp
Foster Marine Base in Okinawa**

July 22, 2000

Thank you. Well, this is the largest crowd I have ever addressed at this late hour. Hello, U.S. forces, Okinawa!

Thank you, General Hailston, General Smith, General Hughey, Admiral Schultz, Colonel Sullivan. Let's give another round of applause to Staff Sergeant Wehunt. He did a good job for you up here, didn't he? [*Applause*]

I'm delighted to be here with my daughter, Chelsea, and Ambassador Foley. We're glad to be here. Thank you. We were supposed to do this tomorrow, but I think you know that I have to leave early to try to go back

to the peace talks at Camp David on the Middle East. And I hope we will have your thoughts and prayers. And that's why we can't do it tomorrow.

But now I will go back in the right frame of mind, since I spent the night with you. And when I fly back home to peace in the Middle East, maybe you'll be going to Okuma instead of listening to me give a speech.

This is a really beautiful place, and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to come here and to see the impact of your service here. In spite of how beautiful Okinawa is, I know you're still a long way from home. So let me begin, on behalf of every American citizen, by thanking our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and your families for your service here for the United States.

Earlier this month, I spent the Fourth of July, my last Fourth of July as President, in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty on the flight deck of the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy*. On the very first Fourth of July back in 1776 George Washington was not in Philadelphia when the Declaration of Independence was signed. Instead, he was with his troops in New York, in Manhattan, as the British ships landed just a few miles away on Staten Island. When the Declaration of Independence arrived from Philadelphia, General Washington had it read aloud to his troops so they would understand that the success of America depended upon the success of our military. It was true 224 years ago; it remains true today.

Thanks to you, the work you do everywhere, and here with our ally Japan, we live in peace. There is peace here, in part because III MEF is here, with the 3d Marine Division; the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing; the 3d Force Service Group; the Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler; the Air Force's 18th Wing; the Army's 10th Area Support Group; the Navy's Task Force 76; and Fleet Activities Okinawa. And everybody I didn't mention, cheer for yourselves here. [*Applause*]

All of you know well the sad and difficult history of the Battle of Okinawa. On Friday I had the honor of visiting the Cornerstone of Peace park. The names of all who died are inscribed on the walls there, Japanese

and Americans and Okinawan soldiers and civilians alike.

It is a remarkable memorial, not just to one side in a battle but to all the people who lost their lives. It is a stirring statement of our common humanity. And it strengthens our commitment to see that such a terrible thing never occurs again. That is why you are here. I don't want you to ever forget it, and I want you to always be very, very proud of what you are doing.

You will never know how many wars you have deterred, how many deaths you have prevented. But you know the number of wars that have been fought in these waters since the United States forces have been stationed here. That number is zero. You should be very, very proud.

We know our hosts in Okinawa have borne a heavy burden, hosting half our forces in Japan on less than one percent of its land. They, too, have paid a price to preserve the peace, and that is why we need to be good neighbors to them in addition to being good allies, why each one of us has a personal obligation to do everything that we can to strengthen our friendship and to do nothing to harm it.

We must continue to hear the concerns of our Okinawan friends to reduce the impact of our presence, to promote the kinds of activities that advance good relations, activities like those of the volunteers who help with English language instruction for elementary schoolchildren in Okinawa; like the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, who just replaced a 30-foot-high steel footpath bridge in an island village in northwest Okinawa; like the volunteers from the 10th Area Support Group who joined the people in Yomitan Village in getting the island ready for the G-8 summit; like our naval hospital and our fire departments, working with their counterparts to improve emergency services; like the 7th Communication Battalion's efforts to do cleanup, make repairs, and pay visits to the residents of Hikariga Ogata Nursing Home.

And so many of you, the rest of you who reach out in your own way to schools, to orphanages, to hospitals, to retirement homes, these acts of kindness give a whole new meaning to the old words: Send in the Marines.

Two hundred and twenty-four years ago, when America was born, the world's only democracy was defended by an army that was then very badly outnumbered. Today, you are part of the greatest fighting force in history, part of the forward march of freedom.

But the most important thing I want to say to you is that your fellow Americans are proud of you and grateful to you. As I think about the enormous honor I have had for 7½ years now to serve as President, an honor which includes visiting more military units than any other Commander in Chief in the history of the Republic, I am profoundly moved by what I have seen and by what I see here tonight. I wanted to come here, and I thank you for changing the schedule and coming out tonight. I thank you for the inspiration you've given me as I go back to try to finalize the peace talks on the Middle East. I thank you for giving your lives to the United States and the cause of freedom and peace.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:18 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston, USMC, Commander, Landing Force, 7th Fleet; Brig. Gen. James B. Smith, USAF, Commander, 18th Air Wing, Kadena Air Base; Brig. Gen. Gary H. Hughey, USMC, Commander General, Camp Smedley D. Butler; Rear Adm. Paul S. Schultz, USN, Commander, Amphibious Force, 7th Fleet; Staff Sgt. Shane A. Wehunt, USAF, 1st Special Operations Squadron; and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Thomas S. Foley.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters in Okinawa

July 23, 2000

Education Initiative for Developing Countries/Group of Eight Summit

President Clinton. Good morning. Well, Prime Minister Blair and I are about to have breakfast together, and we have a lot to talk about, but before we do, I wanted to just make a couple of comments.

First of all—can you hear me now? I wanted to make a couple of comments before I

start my breakfast with Prime Minister Blair. First of all, let me say how much I appreciate the leadership of Prime Minister Mori in hosting this G-8 summit. This was the idea of the late Prime Minister Obuchi. I talked to him about it several times. I'm so glad that his wife was also able to be at our event last night. But I think the Japanese were very wise in bringing us to Okinawa. I personally enjoyed it. Of course, for an American President, it was a special pleasure because I was able to see so many of our troops and their families here. But this was a very good thing. I also think it was a very good summit.

I wanted to say just a few words about one aspect of development that Prime Minister Blair has been particularly interested in, and shown a lot of leadership in our group, and that is the importance of the developed countries, the EU, the United States, Japan, and others, doing more for education in the developing countries. And I wanted to say just a few words about that.

I've been working on a proposal now for some months. It's obvious to me that we can't fight poverty effectively without not only dealing with the disease issue, which you Americans know we've done a lot with, without trying to close the digital divide, but also without expanding literacy and learning.

About 120 million children in the developing world never enroll in school. Hundreds of millions more never learn to read. The G-8 embraced our common commitment to ensure universal basic education in the poorest countries. One of the best things we can do to get children in school is to provide them at least one nutritious meal there every day.

So today I'm announcing a new initiative to support the international effort to provide meals to hungry school- and preschool-age children. Working with the World Food Program and NGO's, the United States will make a contribution of \$300 million to this effort. That money is enough to give one good meal to 9 million school children for a year in the developing world.

It will go to countries with a commitment to expand access to basic education, especially for girls who are still disproportionately left out of the education process. We will work carefully to do this in a way that does

not interrupt local agricultural production. And let me say, one of the reasons we have to try to do this in a pilot way, even though this is a very large pilot, is to make sure we can find ways to add to the stock of school meals for children without interrupting the livelihoods of local farmers.

This idea has extraordinary bipartisan support in the United States. It was first brought to me by our U.N. Ambassador in Rome for food, former Senator George McGovern, and Senator Bob Dole, along with Congressman Jim McGovern from Massachusetts. There is an enormous amount of support in both parties in our country for this, and I want to especially thank Senator McGovern, Senator Dole, and Congressman McGovern for their leadership in this.

I hope this pilot will grow over time as other nations participate and as we find out how to do this in a way that supports, not undermines, local agricultural efforts. And we will work with our partners and with Congress to make sure this has the maximum impact.

But I just want to say again, we estimate that we can increase school enrollment in the developing countries by millions and millions and millions just by telling these children and their parents that we can give them one nutritious meal a day if, but only if, they show up in school. So I think this is one of the most cost-effective ways we can help the developing countries who are trying to improve school enrollment to do so.

So that's what I wanted to say. And again, I want to thank Prime Minister Mori for his leadership in this conference and especially for the work done on development. This is the first time, at least in my experience, and this is my last G-8 conference, that there has been such a systematic focus on the developing world, on the problems of disease and the digital divide and education. And he deserves a lot of credit for that, as well as for the advances we made today—I mean, this week—in our bilateral relations. So I'm glad I came, and I think it was a great conference.

I'd like for the Prime Minister to have a chance to say a few words now.

Prime Minister Blair. First of all, can I join in what President Clinton has just said

to you about the excellence of the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mori, and our thanks, too, for the way that he has hosted this conference, and also to the people of this island of Okinawa.

Can I also express my very strong support for the initiative that President Clinton has just announced to you. And we in the U.K. will look at the ways that we can help work with the U.S. and with others to make this initiative count.

I mean, obviously at this G-8 conference we have been discussing issues to deal with the international financial system. You may remember a couple of years ago that was the very difficult issue that we were trying to deal with, and we managed to deal with it with a certain amount of success I think. We dealt also with issues like organized crime and drugs, issues to do with biotechnology and so on.

But I think President Clinton is absolutely right that the focus of this summit has been very much on what we can do for the developing world. And I think that this summit, perhaps more than any other that I've attended, we've tried not just to deal with the issue of debt, with the issues of trade, with the issues of aid and development, with the issues of health, but we've also tried to look at how we foster and help education and access to education in the developing world. Because unless we deal with all these issues together, and in particular, unless we give the young children in the developing world the chance of getting quality education and being able to enroll in school and being able to get access to the new technology and best learning available, then it's very difficult for these children, for these countries, to make progress.

So, of course, I know for many who work hard in the developing world, progress is often agonizingly slow. But I think that in the range of issues that we've discussed over these last few days, and in the focus on dealing with all these issues together, we have made some very significant steps forward. And I think and hope in the years to come that we will be able to do even more.

I think also, if I may just say, since this is President Clinton's last G-8 summit, last night all the leaders of the G-8 spoke not

just of our immense affection for President Clinton, personally, but of our real admiration for his strength and his leadership over these past few years. I mean, he will have heard me say this many times, but I wouldn't want to leave this G-8 summit without just underlining that. That is the universal feeling amongst the leaders of the G-8, and we're all going to miss him very greatly, indeed.

Middle East Peace Summit

Q. Mr. President, after this 3-day interlude in the Middle East peace talks, do you think the chances of getting an agreement are any better than when you left Washington and it appeared that it was basically dead?

President Clinton. Well, I can't say that because of the rule that they follow, which you have to follow in such matters, which is nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to. But I can say that they have not wasted the time. They've really worked, and I am very grateful for that. There is a rhythm in every one of these things I've ever been involved in. Some of them start off with a bang, and you go from there. Some of them never get off the ground. Some of them—most of them, there's a lot of feeling around until you get your bearings. They have worked. That's all I can tell you. Whether we get an agreement or not, they have tried. They have really been out there working.

I cannot comment yet on the respective positions of the parties because they're going on, and it would violate my understanding. But my understanding is, since I left—maybe because I left—I don't think that—but since I left there has been a lot more sort of systematic effort with the groups on a lot of the issues. So whatever happens, I think they have continued to make headway.

Genetically Modified Foods

Q. Mr. President, do you think the Europeans are being too cautious on the issue of GM foods? And perhaps the Prime Minister could also comment on that issue.

President Clinton. Well, I think you know that I believe that. On the other hand, I believe every country, and certainly the European Union, has a right and a responsibility to assure food safety. The only thing I have

ever asked on GM foods is that the decisions be made based on clear science.

And I have certainly no objection to consumers knowing whether the food they buy are GM—I think there's nothing wrong with people knowing that—but knowledge only matters, knowledge of a certain category of things only matters if you know what it means underneath. So I think we should continue to do research; we should explore all alternatives. I can only tell you that I would never knowingly let the American people eat unsafe food.

Q. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. At the risk of running into trouble on these issues back home from time to time, I just believe what is essential is that we recognize two things. The first is that this whole science of biotechnology is going—I mean, I'm not an expert on it, but people tell me whose opinions I respect that this whole science of biotechnology is perhaps going to be, for the first half of the 21st century what information technology was to the last half of the 20th century. And therefore, it's particularly important, especially for a country like Britain that is a leader in this science of biotechnology, that we proceed according to the facts and the science.

And the second thing to say is that in respect to the facts and the science, I just hope we have an open and a fair debate. I mean, there are intensely held views on both sides of this argument, but the most important thing is that we get access to the best scientific evidence. Consumers should, of course, know what it is that they're eating and consuming. But for the consumers to make that judgment properly, they need the best science available. And that's what we've been working to in the U.K.

As I say, it's not always popular to say that, but I think it's important because it's the right thing to do. And who knows what in 10, 20, 30 years will be the judgment about this new science. All I know is that our responsibility as leaders is to say to people, let's set up the best system, best process available so that you get the real facts, not the prejudices of one side or the commercial interests of one side but the facts and the science. And then we can make judgments.

President Clinton. Let me just make one other comment about this, because I'm not running for anything so I can say this. This tends to be treated as an issue of the interest of the agribusiness companies and earning big profits against food safety or some ultimate impact on biodiversity, which of course also should be studied. But that's not the real issue here.

The real issue is, how can you get the best food to the largest number of people in the world at the lowest possible price? That is the real issue. If it's safe—that's the big issue. All the evidence that I've seen convinces me, based on what all the scientists now know, that it is. But of course, every country has to deal with that.

But just for example, if we could get more of this golden rice, which is a genetically modified strain of rice, especially rich in vitamin A, out to the developed world, it could save 40,000 lives a day, people that are malnourished and dying. So this is a big issue, and it seems to me that's the way we ought to approach it, which is why I think we ought to, of course, be guided by the safety issues, but it ought to be a scientific judgment.

Go ahead.

Group of Eight Summit

Q. Mr. President, this being your last G-8 summit, how would you sum up the achievements of this summit, and how would you change G-8 for the better, given your experience over the years? And finally, do you think Russia should now be a full member of G-8, from start to finish, without a separate G-7 and G-8 procedure?

President Clinton. Let me start at the back. For all practical purposes, Russia is a full member of this. But the G-7 have to meet separately when there are creditor nation issues that only the creditor nations can deal with. And I think that you will see more and more and more of that. But for all practical purposes, they are.

There are some decisions that have to be taken by the leaders in the G-7 as creditor nations. It's purely a question of financial necessity. Otherwise, Russia is fully involved.

Secondly, last year we had a big—at Cologne—we had a big debt relief initiative for the developing world. This year we've built

on the debt relief issue by looking into other issue related to alleviating poverty and closing the vast gaps in income and quality of life. And that's what we talked about today with education; that's what the disease initiative was all about. So I think they're going in the right direction.

And I don't have any particular suggestions for changes, except I think that every year if we could do what Prime Minister Mori did this year, focus on some problem that affects not only us but the rest of the world and have at least half-day where we bring in people like they did in Tokyo—and I regret that I missed that part of it because I think it was fascinating—I think that would be a good thing to do.

I think the fact that it's more informal now than it used to be and that the leaders spend more time talking than they used to—maybe not making news on a particular day, is a plus, not a negative. These people need to know each other. There are a lot of decisions they have to make, a lot of conflicts they can avoid if they know each other and trust each other. So I'm not troubled by the format.

U.S. Presence on Okinawa

Q. Mr. President, if so many people on Okinawa resent the presence of American military here, why not withdraw them?

President Clinton. Well, because we still have security needs here and because I believe that as long as we're good citizens, most of the people on Okinawa understand and appreciate that. What we are doing is aggressively trying to reduce our footprint, and we should continue to do that. We should be as little burden and as great an economic support to the people of Okinawa as possible, because they have borne a disproportionate share.

But I want to say again to Governor Inamine and the people of Okinawa, they've done a great job on this conference, but they've been very, very good to the United States service families that have been here over all these years. And we're going to keep trying to reduce our burden, but we have not yet reached the time, in my judgment, when the Japan-U.S. security partnership requires no presence of the United States forces in northern Asia.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:20 a.m. in the lobby at the Manza Beach Hotel. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan; Chizuko Obuchi, widow of Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan; Gov. Keiichi Inamine of Okinawa; and former Senator Bob Dole. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Department of Health and Human Services Report on the Decline in Youth Gun Deaths

July 24, 2000

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released promising new data today showing that the number of children killed by gunfire in America continues to decline. The HHS report shows that 3,792 children and teens were killed with guns in 1998—a 10 percent decline from the year before. The reduction is even more significant when compared to 1994: 2,000 fewer young people were killed by gunfire in 1998 than in 1994—a 35 percent decrease. Our combined efforts to reduce gun violence and save lives are indeed having an impact.

While these figures are encouraging, there is no question that gun violence is still far too prevalent in our Nation. Despite our progress, 10 young people are killed with guns every day in America. All of us must work together toward a solution. Parents must ensure that guns are stored safely to prevent accidental shootings. Schools and communities must give children positive alternatives to steer them away from guns and violence. Law enforcement must crack down on gun traffickers who supply young people with firearms and armed criminals who commit violence against our children. And the gun industry must responsibly design, distribute, and market its products to make sure that they do not fall into the wrong hands.

Congress has an important role to play as well by fully funding my \$280 million national gun enforcement initiative and by passing the stalled commonsense gun safety legislation that can help keep guns out of the

hands of children and criminals. Working together, we can keep gun violence on the decline and the prospects for our children's future going up.

Statement on the Selection of Zell Miller To Be Senator From Georgia

July 24, 2000

Georgia Governor Roy Barnes has exercised great wisdom in selecting former Governor Zell Miller to fill the Senate seat of the late Paul Coverdell. Zell Miller will continue to demonstrate the same devotion to the citizens of Georgia and our Nation that was the hallmark of Senator Coverdell's Senate career. Having established himself as one of the greatest Governors in Georgia history, Zell returned to his first love, teaching college. He now comes to Washington out of a profound sense of duty to his Nation and the people of his State.

His commitment and accomplishments in education have rightly earned him the title, "the education Governor." I was so impressed with the HOPE scholarships he began in Georgia that I took the program national, giving millions of young people the opportunity to pursue their dream of a college education. Zell Miller has also been a leader in the areas of economic development, crime prevention, and social justice. In every job he has ever held—as a U.S. marine, college professor, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor—Zell Miller has put the interest of hard working families first. I believe he will be a great United States Senator, and I look forward to working with him.

Trilateral Statement: Middle East Peace Summit

July 25, 2000

Between July 11 and 24, under the auspices of President Clinton, Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat met at Camp David in an effort to reach an agreement on permanent status. While they were not able to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement, their negotiations were unprecedented in both scope and detail. Building on the

progress achieved at Camp David, the two leaders agreed on the following principles to guide their negotiations:

- 1) The two sides agreed that the aim of their negotiations is to put an end to decades of conflict and achieve a just and lasting peace.
- 2) The two sides commit themselves to continue their efforts to conclude an agreement on all permanent status issues as soon as possible.
- 3) Both sides agree that negotiations based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are the only way to achieve such an agreement and they undertake to create an environment for negotiations free from pressure, intimidation and threats of violence.
- 4) The two sides understand the importance of avoiding unilateral actions that prejudice the outcome of negotiations and that their differences will be resolved only by good faith negotiations.
- 5) Both sides agree that the United States remains a vital partner in the search for peace and will continue to consult closely with President Clinton and Secretary Albright in the period ahead.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this trilateral statement.

Remarks on Returning From Camp David, Maryland, and an Exchange With Reporters

July 25, 2000

Air France Concorde Tragedy

The President. First of all, let me say, like all of you, I just heard the news of the crash of the Concorde outside Paris, and I wanted to extend the deepest condolences of the American people to the families of those who were lost.

Conclusion of the Middle East Peace Summit

After 14 days of intensive negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, I have concluded with regret that they will not be able to reach an agreement at this time. As I explained on the eve of the summit, success was far from guaranteed given the historical, religious, political, and emotional dimensions of the conflict.

Still, because the parties were not making progress on their own and the September deadline they set for themselves was fast approaching, I thought we had no choice. We can't afford to leave a single stone unturned in the search for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

Now, at Camp David, both sides engaged in comprehensive discussions that were really unprecedented because they dealt with the most sensitive issues dividing them, profound and complex questions that long had been considered off limits.

Under the operating rules that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, they are, of course, not bound by any proposal discussed at the summit. However, while we did not get an agreement here, significant progress was made on the core issues. I want to express my appreciation to Prime Minister Barak, Chairman Arafat, and their delegations for the efforts they undertook to reach an agreement.

Prime Minister Barak showed particular courage, vision, and an understanding of the historical importance of this moment. Chairman Arafat made it clear that he, too, remains committed to the path of peace. The trilateral statement we issued affirms both leaders' commitment to avoid violence or unilateral actions which will make peace more difficult and to keep the peace process going until it reaches a successful conclusion.

At the end of this summit, I am fully aware of the deep disappointment that will be felt on both sides. But it was essential for Israelis and Palestinians, finally, to begin to deal with the toughest decisions in the peace process. Only they can make those decisions, and they both pledged to make them, I say again, by mid-September.

Now, it's essential that they not lose hope, that they keep working for peace, they avoid

any unilateral actions that would only make the hard task ahead more difficult. The statement the leaders have made today is encouraging in that regard.

Israelis and Palestinians are destined to live side by side, destined to have a common future. They have to decide what kind of future it will be. Though the differences that remain are deep, they have come a long way in the last 7 years, and notwithstanding the failure to reach an agreement, they made real headway in the last 2 weeks.

Now the two parties must go home and reflect, both on what happened at Camp David and on what did not happen. For the sake of their children, they must rededicate themselves to the path of peace and find a way to resume their negotiations in the next few weeks. They've asked us to continue to help, and as always, we'll do our best. But the parties themselves, both of them, must be prepared to resolve profound questions of history, identity, and national faith as well as the future of sites that are holy to religious people all over the world who are part of the Islamic, Christian, and Judaic traditions.

The children of Abraham, the descendants of Isaac and Ishmael, can only be reconciled through courageous compromise in the spirit of those who have already given their lives for peace and all Israelis, Palestinians, friends of peace in the Middle East and across the world who long for peace and deserve a Holy Land that lives for the values of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Thank you.

Q. Was Jerusalem—Mr. President, was Jerusalem the main stumbling block? And where do you go from here?

The President. It was the most difficult problem. And I must tell you that we tried a lot of different approaches to it, and we have not yet found a solution. But the good news is that there is not a great deal of disagreement—and I want to emphasize this—it seemed to me, anyway, there was not a great deal of disagreement in many of these areas about what the facts on the ground would be after an agreement was made—that is, how people would live.

For example, everyone conceded that Jerusalem is a place that required everyone to have access to the holy sites, and the kinds

of things you've heard, and lot of other things in terms of how, operationally, the Israelis and the Palestinians have worked together; there was actually more agreement than I had thought there would be.

But obviously, the questions around Jerusalem go to the core identity of both the Palestinians and the Israelis. There were some very, as I said—it has been reported Prime Minister Barak took some very bold decisions, but we were in the end unable to bridge the gaps. I think they will be bridged, because I think the alternative is unthinkable.

Tom [Thomas L. Friedman, New York Times].

Q. There is a striking contrast between the way you described Prime Minister Barak's courageous and visionary approach to this, and Mr. Arafat seemed to be still committed to the path of peace. It sounds like that at the end of the day, Prime Minister Barak was ready to really step up to something that President Arafat wasn't yet ready to step up to.

The President. Let me be more explicit. I will say again, we made progress on all of the core issues. We made really significant progress on many of them. The Palestinian teams worked hard on a lot of these areas. But I think it is fair to say that at this moment in time, maybe because they had been preparing for it longer, maybe because they had thought through it more, that the Prime Minister moved forward more from his initial position than Chairman Arafat, on—particularly surrounding the questions of Jerusalem.

Now, these are hard questions. And as I said to both of them, none of us, no outsider can judge for another person what is at the core of his being, at the core of his sense of national essence. But we cannot make an agreement here without a continuing effort of both sides to compromise.

I do believe that—let me say this—and you will appreciate this, Tom, because you've been covering this a long time—but I want to give credit to both sides in the sense that they were really coming to grips with things they had never seriously come to grips with before.

Oh, yes, there were always side papers—even going back to 1993—about how these

final issues would be solved. There were always speculation. There were always the odd conversation between Palestinians and Israelis who were friends and part of the various—the different government operations. But these folks really never had to come together before, and in an official setting put themselves on the line. And it is profoundly difficult.

So I said what I said, and my remarks should stand for themselves, because—not so much as a criticism of Chairman Arafat, because this is really hard and never been done before, but in praise of Barak. He came there knowing that he was going to have to take bold steps, and he did it. And I think you should look at it more as a positive toward him than as a condemnation of the Palestinian side.

This is agonizing for them—both of them. And unless you have lived there and lived with them and talked to them or lived with this problem a long time, it is hard to appreciate it. But I do think—I stand by the statement as written. I think they both remain committed to peace. I think they will both find a way to get there if they don't let time run away with them so that external events rob them of their options. And that's why I decided to call the summit in the first place.

I got worried that—this is like going to the dentist without having your gums deadened, you know. I mean, this is not easy. And I got worried that if we didn't do the summit and we didn't force a process to begin, which would require people to come to grips with this in a disciplined, organized way, as well as to face—look themselves in the mirror and look into the abyss and think, "What can I do, and what can't I do," that we would never get there. Now, I believe because of the work that was done within both teams and what they did with each other, we can still do it. Let me just make one other observation, and then I'll answer your question.

You know, when we worked—I remember when we went to Dayton over Bosnia, when we went to Paris over Bosnia. After the Kosovo conflict—and I went there and met with all the people who were going to have to work on Kosovo's future—even when we first started the Irish peace talks, we were dealing with people who would hardly speak

to each other. We were dealing with people who still often wouldn't shake hands. We were dealing with people who thought they were from another planet from one another, whose wounds were open.

Let me give you some good news. Of all the peace groups I ever worked with, these people know each other. They know the names of each other's children. They know how many grandchildren the grandparents have. They know their life stories. They have a genuine respect and understanding for each other. It is truly extraordinary and unique in my experience in almost 8 years of dealing with it.

So I'm not trying to put a funny gloss on this. They couldn't get there. That's the truth. They couldn't get there. But this was the first time in an organized, disciplined way they had to work through, both for themselves and then with each other, how they were going to come to grips with issues that go to the core of their identity.

And I think, on balance, it was very much the right thing to do, and it increases the chance of a successful agreement, and it increases the chances of avoiding a disaster.

Now, I promised you, you could ask now.

Q. What is your assessment of whether Arafat's going to go through with the threat to declare statehood unilaterally? Did you get any sort of sense on whether he's going to go through with that? Did you have any—

The President. Well, let me say this. One of the reasons that I wanted to have this summit is that they're both under, will be under conflicting pressures as we go forward. One of the things that often happens in a very difficult peace process is that people, if they're not careful, will gravitate to the intense position rather than the position that will make peace. And it's very often that people know that a superficially safe position is to say no, that you won't get in trouble with whoever is dominating the debate back home, wherever your home is, as long as you say no.

One of the reasons I called this summit is so that we could set in motion a process that would give the Palestinians the confidence that all of us—and most of all, the Israelis—really did want to make peace, so that it would offset the pressure that will be

increasingly on Chairman Arafat as we approach the September 13th deadline.

Q. Are you implying that he should give up his claim to East Jerusalem—the Palestinians should?

The President. No, I didn't say that.

Q. Or any kind of a foothold?

The President. I didn't say that. I didn't say that. I didn't say that. And let me say, I presume, I am bound—I'm going to honor my promise not to leak about what they talked about, but I presume it will come out. No, I didn't say that. I said only this: I said—I will say again—the Palestinians changed their position. They moved forward. The Israelis moved more from the position they had. I said what I said; I will say again: I was not condemning Arafat; I was praising Barak. But I would be making a mistake not to praise Barak because I think he took a big risk. And I think it sparked, already, in Israel a real debate, which is moving Israeli public opinion toward the conditions that will make peace. So I thought that was important, and I think it deserves to be acknowledged.

But the overriding thing you need to know is that progress was made on all fronts, that significant progress was made on some of the core issues, that Jerusalem, as you all knew it would be, remains the biggest problem for the reasons you know.

But what we have to find here, if there is going to be an agreement—by definition, an agreement is one in which everybody is a little disappointed and nobody is defeated, in which neither side requires the other to say they have lost everything, and they find a way to—a shared result.

And there's no place in the world like Jerusalem. There is no other place in the world like Jerusalem, which is basically at the core of the identity of all three monotheistic religions in the world, at the core of the identity of what it means to be a Palestinian, at the core of the identity of what it means to be an Israeli. There is no other place like this in the world. So they have to find a way to work through this.

And it shouldn't surprise you that when they first come to grips with this in an official, disciplined way where somebody has to actually say something instead of sort of be off in a corner having a conversation over a cup

of coffee that no one ever—that has no—it just vanishes into air, that it's hard for them to do.

Q. But did they make enough progress, sir, to now go back home, check with their people, and possibly come back during your administration—next month or in September—to come back to Camp David and try again?

The President. I don't know if they need to come back to Camp David. I think that it rained up there so much, I'm not sure I'll ever get them back there. [Laughter] But I think if you asked me, did they make enough progress to get this done? Yes. But they've got to go home and check; they've got to feel around. And what I want to say to you is, the reason I tried to keep them there so long—and I feel much better about this than I did when we almost lost it before—and you remember, and I got them and we all agreed to stay—I didn't feel that night like I feel today.

Today I feel that we have the elements here to keep this process going. But it's important that the people who both leaders represent, support their continuing involvement in this and stick with them, and understand that this is a script that's never been written before. They have to write a script, and they've got to keep working at it.

But yes, I think it can happen—

Q. During your administration?

The President. Yes. Not because it's my administration; that's irrelevant. They're operating on their timetable, not mine. It has nothing to do with the fact that it's my administration. I think it can happen because they set for themselves a September 13th deadline. And if they go past it, every day they go past it will put more pressure on the Palestinians to declare a Palestinian state unilaterally and more pressure on the Israelis to have some greater edge in conflict in their relations as a result of that.

Neither one of them want that; so I think they will find a way to keep this going. And the only relevance of my being here is that I've been working with them for 8 years, and I think they both trust us and believe that Secretary Albright and Dennis and Sandy and our whole team, that we will heave to to make peace.

Q. But, Mr. President, the Prime Minister came here in quite a precarious position to begin with back home. And some of the things you call bold and courageous, his critics back home have called treason. Can he go home, and do you believe he will have the political stability to come back at this, and did he voice any concerns to you about that?

The President. First of all, this is not a weak man. It's not for nothing that he's the most decorated soldier in the history of Israel. He didn't come over here to play safe with his political future. He came over here to do what he thought was right for the people of Israel, and I think that he—he knows that he would never do anything to put the security of Israel at risk, and that the only long-term guarantee of Israel's security is a constructive peace that's fair with her neighbors—all of them—starting with the Palestinians.

So I think the people of Israel should be very proud of him. He did nothing to compromise Israel's security, and he did everything he possibly could within the limits that he thought he had, all the kinds of constraints that operate on people in these circumstances, to reach a just peace. So I would hope the people of Israel will support him and let this thing percolate, not overreact, and say, "Keep trying."

I want the people on both sides to tell their leaders to keep trying—to keep trying. You know, that's the only real answer here—is just to bear down and go on.

Q. Mr. President, couldn't you have gotten a partial agreement and left Jerusalem for later? Was that a possibility at all?

The President. That possibility was explored and rejected.

Q. Why?

The President. I can't talk about it. If they want to talk about it, that's their business, but I can't.

Q. Have you done all you can do, sir, or would you be making more proposals?

The President. Oh, I think—well, first of all, we all agreed to reassess here. So the first thing we're going to do is, we're going to let each side go home and try to get a little sleep. I mean, we've all been sort of—

we're kind of—nobody knows what time it is, I don't think, on either team.

Last night we quit at 3; the night before, we went all night long. And so, we've been working very hard at this. So what I'm going to do is let them take a deep breath and then our side, Madeleine and Sandy and all of our team and I and Dennis, we'll try to think what we think we ought to do. Then we'll ask them what they want to do, and then we'll figure out what we're going to do.

We don't have a lot of time, and I wouldn't rule out the possibility that all of us will be coming up with new ideas here. I wouldn't rule anything out. The clock is still working against us. The bad news is, we don't have a deal. The good news is, they are fully and completely and comprehensively engaged in an official way for the first time on these fundamental issues.

Keep in mind, when the Oslo agreement was drafted, these things were put down as final status issues because the people that drafted them knew it would be hard. And they took a gamble. And their gamble was that if the Israelis and the Palestinians worked together over a 7-year period and they began to share security cooperation, for example, they began to—we had some land transfers, and we saw how they would work in a different geographical way, and if they kept making other specific agreements, that by the time we got to the end of the road, there would be enough knowledge and trust and understanding of each other's positions that these huge, epochal issues could be resolved.

Now, we started the process, and we've got to finish. And so, and again I say, the thing I hope most of all is that the people in the Middle East will appreciate the fact that a lot was done here, and we'll support their leaders in coming back and finishing the job. The venue is not important. The mechanisms aren't important. But we know what the state of play is now, and if we'll keep at it, I still think we can get it done.

Q. Can you describe what type of U.S. role was discussed in sealing the agreement financially and otherwise?

The President. Let me say, first of all, anything that would require our participation, other than financial, was not finalized. But there were a lot of ideas floated around. None of it amounted to large numbers of people. But they were potentially significant in terms of the psychology of the situation. But there was no decision made about that.

On the money, basically, you know, I think that the United States should be prepared to make a significant contribution to resolving the refugee problem. You've got refugees that have to be resettled. You've got some compensation which has to be given. And there are lots of issues in that refugee pot that cost money. And then there's the whole question of working out the economic future of the Palestinians, and the whole question of working out what the security relationships will be and the security needs will be for Israel and in this new partnership that they will have—the Palestinians. How is that going to work, and what should we do?

I also, when I went to the G-8, I gave a briefing to the G-8, and I asked the people who were there to help pay, too. I said, you know, this is going to have to be a worldwide financial responsibility, but because of the United States' historic involvement, which goes back many decades in the Middle East—we were the first country under President Truman to recognize Israel; we've had Republicans and Democrats alike up to their ears in the Middle East peace process for a long time—and because we have such a lot of strategic interest over there, if there could be an agreement, I think we ought to lead the way in financial contributions, but the others who are able to do so should play their part as well.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:07 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; National Security Adviser Samuel R. (Sandy) Berger; and Ambassador Dennis B. Ross, Special Middle East Coordinator.

Statement on Signing the Valles Caldera Preservation Act*July 25, 2000*

I am very pleased to sign into law S. 1892, the "Valles Caldera Preservation Act." This legislation is the culmination of a gratifying cooperative effort with the Congress, led by Senator Bingaman, Senator Dominici, Representative Udall, and Representative Heather Wilson of New Mexico. Its enactment will permit us to protect over 95,000 acres of unique, irreplaceable land in northern New Mexico—one of my top conservation priorities—for future generations to enjoy.

Specifically, this Act authorizes the acquisition and preservation of nearly 95,000 acres in the Valles Caldera, New Mexico. It also permits the sale of about 5,000 acres, containing the headwaters of the Santa Clara Creek, to the Santa Clara Pueblo, to allow the Pueblo to protect its water quality and resource values. A separate title of the bill authorizes the proceeds from the sale or exchange of certain Federal lands identified by the Bureau of Land Management as surplus to be used to purchase and protect other lands with exceptional natural resource values.

The Valles Caldera is at the heart of the Jemez Mountains and is the site of perhaps the greatest of New Mexico's volcanic features. It also is home to a wide range of scenic, wildlife, cultural, and ecological resources, and provides incomparable scenic beauty and recreational potential. The importance of the preservation of the Valles Caldera lies in the unique combination of all of these features in a relatively pristine setting that is nevertheless close by, and accessible to, the people of New Mexico. It has remained intact as a single unit in private ownership since the original land grant in 1860. Known as Baca Ranch, it has been well managed for several decades and is an example of a sustainable working ranch.

The caldera is an enormous depression more than a half-mile deep and 15 miles wide that was created by a volcanic eruption over a million years ago. Secondary volcanic domes arise from the caldera floor to elevations as high as 11,000 feet. Its scenic qual-

ity—a large network of grassland and forested mountains, surrounded by the caldera rim—does not exist elsewhere in the Southwest. It provides habitat to a broad range of species, including one of the largest elk herds in the continental United States, black bear, mountain lion, Mexican spotted owl, goshawk, peregrine falcon, and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Its vegetation reflects a high level of ecological diversity, and includes grasslands, ponderosa pine, spruce, Douglas fir, and aspen.

The Jemez Wild and Scenic River, which originates in the Caldera, as well as the San Antonio, Jaramillo, and La Jara Creeks, all have outstanding fishery resources. Baca Ranch also adjoins the Santa Fe National Forest and Bandelier National Monument, and its protection will enhance the values of those properties as well.

The special designation of the ranch as the Valles Caldera National Preserve will help ensure the protection of important scenic and natural values. Baca Ranch has been well managed by its current owners, who permit selective grazing, timber harvest, fishing, and hunting—all in a manner that respects and preserves the underlying resource. The bill creates a unique management structure for this unique property. A Board of Trustees, with each member providing a particular expertise in the range of issues raised by the management of this property, will make decisions about Baca Ranch in a process that fully involves the American public—the real owners of the land. It is my hope that a member of the Native American community in New Mexico be included on this Board. This legislation makes clear that the managers of this property will make resource protection a top priority, and that sustainable multiple uses and financial self-sufficiency will be pursued to the extent consistent with protection of these irreplaceable resources. The Baca Ranch is a working ranch today, and the goal is to make it a model of sustainable practices, ensuring resource protection and providing for public recreational uses.

The purchase of the Valles Caldera is one of the most significant Federal land acquisitions in recent history and is a prime example of what we can achieve through my Lands Legacy Initiative. The permanent funding

source for conservation that I am working with the Congress to provide will guarantee that places like the Valles Caldera will not disappear, but will be protected for all to enjoy. The acquisition of this irreplaceable resource has been a top conservation priority for my Administration and many in the Congress. This Act protects a magnificent natural resource for New Mexicans and all Americans, and we can all be proud of this legacy that we leave for generations to come.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 25, 2000.

NOTE: S. 1892, approved July 25, was assigned Public Law No. 106–248.

Statement on Signing the Valles Caldera Preservation Act

July 25, 2000

I am very pleased today to sign bipartisan legislation authorizing protection of New Mexico's Baca Ranch as the new Valles Caldera National Preserve.

From time to time, we are presented with an opportunity to save a truly magnificent piece of America's rich natural endowment. Today we seize one such opportunity. At the heart of the scenic Jemez Mountains west of Santa Fe, the Baca Ranch contains the remarkable Valles Caldera—the collapsed crater of an ancient volcano—and sustains one of our Nation's largest wild elk herds. Thanks to the careful stewardship of the Dunigan family, this extraordinary landscape appears today much as it did when the first settlers arrived. And thanks to the bipartisan efforts of the New Mexico delegation, we will ensure that it remains healthy and whole for generations to come.

I commend the Dunigans, for offering us the chance to open this treasure to the American people; Senators Bingaman and Domenici, and Representatives Udall and Wilson, for helping to lead this historic conservation effort; and the leaders of the Santa Clara Pueblo, for sharing with us their reverence for this land.

Today's success should inspire us to work even harder to conserve America's natural

heritage. The acquisition of Baca Ranch was made possible with increased conservation funding I secured last year through my lands legacy initiative. I have proposed another significant increase in lands legacy funding for the coming fiscal year. Unfortunately, appropriations bills passed by both the House and the Senate would provide only a third of my request, cutting lands legacy funding considerably below this year's level. In addition, riders attached to several appropriations measures aim to cripple wildlife protections, surrender public lands to private interests, and hamper commonsense efforts to combat global warming. I urge Congress to drop these anti-environmental riders and to fully fund my Lands Legacy initiative.

Ultimately, our goal must be to establish permanent conservation funding so that each new generation will have the resources to protect other critical lands across America. I am very pleased that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee today approved a version of bipartisan legislation passed overwhelmingly by the House that moves us closer to that goal. I am fully committed to working with Congress to create a lasting endowment to support Federal, State, and local conservation efforts. Let us work together, in the spirit of today's historic conservation achievement, to strengthen, not weaken, environmental protections.

NOTE: S. 1892, approved July 25, was assigned Public Law No. 106–248.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on New Markets, Empowerment Zone, and Community Renewal Legislation

July 25, 2000

I commend the House of Representatives for passing today the bipartisan new markets, empowerment zone, and community renewal legislation. At a time of unprecedented prosperity, too many Americans in our cities and rural areas still do not have access to investment capital and economic opportunity. This legislation will spur more private sector investment in these new markets so that all

Americans can fully participate in our thriving economy. I look forward to working with Members of both parties in the House and the Senate this year to enact this historic and innovative legislation.

Memorandum on Strategy for the Development and Transfer of Assistive Technology and Universal Design

July 25, 2000

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Strategy for the Development and Transfer of Assistive Technology and Universal Design

It is my Administration's policy to accelerate the development and deployment of assistive technology and technology that promotes universal design. Assistive technology maintains or improves the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. Universal design is the design of products and environments that enables all people to use these products, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Assistive technologies and products that incorporate universal design principles can significantly improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and increase their ability to participate in the workplace.

Therefore, to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, I direct as follows: (a) The Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) shall, within 120 days from the date of this directive, publish a report identifying priority areas for the advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities. This report should be prepared in cooperation with the disability and the research communities. The report should cover technologies needed for improving or increasing:

- Sensory functioning, such as digital technologies to enhance speech intelligibility;
- Mobility enhancement, such as advanced prosthetic devices;
- Manipulation ability;

- Cognitive function;
- Accessibility of information and communications technology, such as text-to-speech and speech recognition systems; and
- Accessibility to, and mobility within the physical environment.

(b) Following the issuance of this report, each agency that participates in the Small Business Innovation Research program (SBIR) shall, consistent with current law, develop a strategy for enhancing the transfer of technology that can contribute to the needs and requirements identified by the ICDR. This strategy must address both intramural and extramural research and development. Agencies shall publish their strategies 6 months after the issuance of the ICDR report. Agency strategies should include, but not be limited to, the development of focused solicitations under the SBIR program.

This memorandum does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law, by a party against the United States, its officers, its employees, or any other person.

William J. Clinton

Message to the Senate Transmitting Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child With Documentation

July 25, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both of which were adopted at New York, May 25, 2000: (1) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; and (2) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. I signed both Protocols on July 5, 2000.

In addition, I transmit for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to both Protocols, including article-by-article analyses of each

Protocol. As detailed in the Department of State report, a number of understandings and declarations are recommended.

These Protocols represent a true breakthrough for the children of the world. Ratification of these Protocols will enhance the ability of the United States to provide global leadership in the effort to eliminate abuses against children with respect to armed conflict and sexual exploitation.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to both Protocols and give its advice and consent to the ratification of both Protocols, subject to the understandings and declarations recommended in the Department of State Report.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 25, 2000.

**Remarks at a Memorial Service for
Diane Blair in Fayetteville, Arkansas
July 25, 2000**

I think my friend would get a big kick out of knowing today that I am virtually at a loss for words. *[Laughter]* Every friendship has a chronology. Ours started in 1972 when I came up here to Fayetteville to see Diane because she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. And we two comprised, along with Jim, some 50 percent of the white Arkansans who wanted to vote for George McGovern. *[Laughter]*

So we're drinking a cup of coffee or drinking a Coke or something at the union, and I'd met this woman like 10 minutes ago, and I was supposed to be talking politics with her, and all of a sudden, I started talking about Hillary, and I was talking about how much she had reminded me of Hillary. And all of a sudden, I felt that, somehow, she had totally captured me, and in some fundamental way, I would somehow belong to her for the rest of my life. *[Laughter]* And that's exactly what happened.

And in 1973 when I came home to Arkansas, and then Hillary came here, and I made sure they got together, and Diane and Jim and I—we'd meet her, one of us—we weren't married then, and it's been kind of the most interesting thing in my friendship life that

Hillary and I always considered Diane and Jim our best "couple friend." But we were both privileged to have individual friendships with both of them, and it has been a true blessing.

It does tickle me that she worked in all my campaigns, and after Jim made her a rich lady, she still lived in that lousy apartment in Little Rock in '92—*[laughter]*—still working the campaign. *[Laughter]* It tickles me that when I married them in 1979—that's one way a Governor has more power than a President; I can't do that anymore—*[laughter]*—they wanted me to wear a top hat, tails. I even had a cane. And I never get tired of looking at that wedding picture. It's in the program.

Then, this was not a woman to let you wallow in self-pity. In 1980 I became the youngest former Governor in the history of America. *[Laughter]* So after giving me a couple of months to lick my wounds and feel sorry for myself, she made me show up at her political science class to explain how I got my brains beat out. *[Laughter]*

So many times over the last several years, she gave me a home away from home, and then since we've been in the White House, as you heard Hillary say, even in the Governor's mansion, we tried to give them the same.

It was just a little over 5 months ago, and probably 2 or 3 days before we learned that Diane was ill, that Jim came up and spent 3 nights, 3 days and 3 nights in Washington, and we were thinking about all the trips that we would take together when, finally, Hillary and I were liberated from our present responsibilities.

It doesn't take long to live a life. And I guess what I would like to say today is that somehow, I felt about her as I have rarely felt about any human being, that she had this peculiar blend. She was beautiful and good. She was serious and funny. She was completely ambitious to do good and be good but fundamentally selfless.

Sometime in our mid-thirties when Hillary and I were living in the Governor's mansion, we woke up one day and realized we might not live forever and that something could happen to us, and we actually made out a will. And I called Diane and Jim and said,

"You know, we're making out this will. Would you raise Chelsea if anything happens to us?"

Thankfully, we were able to watch our children grow up together. Diane had great kids and great stepchildren. Bill and Missy both work for Hillary and me now, and we're very grateful for that.

There are just three other points I would like to make. Diane had an interesting life: Came to Arkansas because she married Hugh Kincaid, and she stayed. Jim Blair would be the first person to tell you, she made a lot better man out of him than he was before he married her. *[Laughter]* And most of us would tell you that she somehow made better people of us as well.

But I want to say this, because somebody needs to. I've never seen a more beautiful, complete expression of love in my life than you, Jim, when you fought to save her, and you took care of her when you realized you couldn't.

The second thing I want to tell you is Diane Blair lived to the very end. I mean, really lived. She and I were still doing the New York Times Sunday crossword puzzle together. All these times, you know, we got all these—Hillary and I would get good publicity for flying down here to see Diane, and people wanted to know what we did. We sat on a couch, and we worked the crossword puzzle. And she was exceedingly jealous of me because I would get the copy 3 or 4 days before Sunday, and she got it a couple days later. *[Laughter]*

So I used to taunt her. I would do it—I would do the crossword puzzle, and I was faithful in doing it. Once she got sick, I did it the first day I got it. I would send it to her, and I would taunt her, because she prided herself so much in being too noble to sneak and see whether I had gotten the answer right if she was having trouble. *[Laughter]*

The second thing I want you to know is, she was still writing me letters to the end. "Dear President Bill: You should give a farewell address. Only a few Presidents have. You should do it. And here is exactly what you should say." *[Laughter]*

I was looking at all of these pictures up here. And I thought about how many times

over the years I would just—we'd be up at the lake doing something, just grungy as we could be, all four of us, and Diane would turn a certain way, and I would think: My God, she's beautiful—in a totally unique way. And I was seeing all these pictures, thinking about that again.

The last time Hillary and I saw her, I think it was the day before she essentially lost consciousness. And she was there with her little grandchildren on the bed, and she had lost all her hair, and she wasn't going to the trouble to wear a wig anymore. But her eyes were still burning, and she was so beautiful.

And the last thing she ever said was the thing I'd like to say to you. Hillary and Chelsea and I were standing there, and Hillary and I were holding her hands, and she said, "Before I go"—because we were leaving; we had to leave—she didn't say before you go, she said, "Before I go, I want to tell you: Remember." And Hillary said, "Remember what, Diane?" And she smiled and said, "Just remember." So that's what I say to you. And every dark and difficult moment of your life, whenever you need to remember something profoundly good, get a little more energy to redouble your efforts, feel less sorry for yourself, be more grateful, just remember.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. in the Baum/Walker Hall at the Walton Arts Center. In his remarks, he referred to Ms. Blair's son, William Reid Kincaid, and daughter, Katherine (Missy) Kincaid.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Report on Burdensharing in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

July 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 3(2)(B) of the Senate's resolution of April 30, 1998, providing its advice and consent to ratification of the Protocols on the Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949, I hereby transmit to you the report concerning burdensharing in the Alliance and other matters.

The report contains two sections: (1) an unclassified section on allies' contributions to common NATO budgets, allies' national defense budgets and their adequacy, costs incurred to date in connection with the membership of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, and the status of discussions concerning NATO membership for Partnership for Peace countries; and (2) a separate, classified section on steps taken by allies to meet NATO force goals.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations; and Floyd Spence, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Reporting on the Deployment of
Military Forces for Stabilization of
Areas of the Former Yugoslavia**

July 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of January 25, 2000, I provided further information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR), which began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led Implementation Force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

In Resolution 1305 of June 21, 2000, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months. The mission of SFOR is to provide

a continued military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been reduced from approximately 6,200 to 4,600 personnel since my last report. United States personnel comprise 19 percent of the total SFOR force. In the first half of 2000, 18 NATO nations and 16 others, including Russia and Ukraine, have provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces are assigned to Multinational Division, North, centered around the city of Tuzla. In addition, U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in support of those efforts. Specifically, approximately 1,000 U.S. military personnel are presently deployed to Hungary, Croatia, and Italy in order to provide logistical and other support to SFOR. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have sustained no combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive, and in accordance with various statutory authorities.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting the Report on
Peacekeeping Operations**

July 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to transmit herewith the 1999 Annual Report to the Congress on Peacekeeping required by section 4 of the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79-264), as amended.

United Nations and other peacekeeping operations helped us protect our interests before they were directly threatened, and ensured that other nations shared with us the risks and costs of maintaining international stability.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that peacekeeping remains a viable option for dealing with international conflicts.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations; and Floyd Spence, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

**Remarks on the Anniversary of the
Americans With Disabilities Act**

July 26, 2000

Thank you very much. And thank you, Justin, for all you said, all you've done; how you've been a conscience to me and to Hillary and to the Vice President and our entire administration and to the country.

I want to thank all the Members of Congress who are here, especially, obviously, Senator Harkin and Senator Hatch. But thank you, Senator Kennedy, Senator Specter, Senator Jeffords. Senator Metzenbaum, it's good to see you back. I'd like to thank Representative Morella and former Representative Bartlett. And Secretary Mineta, former Representative Mineta, thank

you for what you did on this; and recognize that Tony Coelho—I'm not sure that he's here—but for all he did, along with—and I thank all the members of the administration who are here: Secretary Herman, Secretary Guber, and Commissioner Apfel, Director Lachance, the EEO Chairwoman, Ida Castro, and many others over there.

But I'd like to especially thank the people that Justin Dart recognized, the Americans with disabilities who have made our administration the most diverse in America, and I think the best, because of their contributions in terms of reflecting America's values. Thank you, Paul Miller, Bob Williams, Marca Bristo, Judy Heumann. Thank you, Becky Ogle, and all the others who are here for what you did for our administration.

I finally think I've carried this too far. There is an article in the Washington Post this morning on Becky Ogle. If you haven't seen it, you ought to. I've been here 8 years, and I have never gotten that good of press in the Washington Post. *[Laughter]* It was amazing, so we're really making progress.

I'd also like to thank young Beth Gray from my home State of Arkansas for singing the national anthem. Didn't she do a wonderful job? *[Applause]* I thought she was really terrific—and all the other young people that are here.

One of the things that Tom Harkin didn't tell you about his brother, Frank, is that when we celebrated the first anniversary of the ADA, that I had a chance to celebrate as President in 1993, we made the first—Tom and I did—made the first and ever phone call from the White House to the nationwide relay service which allows people who are deaf to use the phone. We called Frank at home in Cumming, Iowa. And guess what? Here we were, the whole national press, we're in the Oval Office, Tom and I—the line was busy. *[Laughter]* Frank couldn't wait for us. He was already calling his friends to say hello, because he was so excited to be on the phone for the first time. Eventually, Frank found time to take our call, and we had a wonderful visit.

I say that to make this point. A lot of what the Americans with Disabilities Act is all about is making sure people can live like people, can do things that other folks take for

granted. The Americans with Disabilities Act—and I thank all these Members of Congress from both parties who are here, and those who couldn't be here today—is basically a statement by human beings that they want: Sympathy, no; self-determination, yes. That they don't want excuses. Instead, they want opportunity in terms of jobs and careers.

The FDR Memorial is a pretty good place for us to be having this because, as all of you know, it is more than a monument to one of our Nation's leaders. It's a symbol of who we are as a nation and what we can overcome.

Tom told me before I came up here, Senator Harkin said, "You know, my father used to say that Roosevelt became President at the darkest time of our country's history. It took a disabled man to lead a disabled nation. They both forgot they had a disability by making it go away in their common endeavors." If we could just remember a few basic things: that everybody counts, everybody deserves a chance, everybody has a role to play, we all do better when we help each other. That's what this Memorial represents; that's what the ADA represents; that's America at its best.

You know, the ADA has changed America in ways we have, I think, forgotten to be conscious of: curb cuts, braille signs, closed captioning. These things are part of everyday life now. It's also changing the way, I think, many Americans see one another, and dropping a lot of those invisible barriers to progress.

I was proud last year to come here to sign the Jeffords-Kennedy Work Incentive Improvement Act, last December. It was the last bill signing of the 20th century. But on this 10th anniversary, as others have said, I want us to look ahead. In the midst of the longest economic expansion in history, more Americans with disabilities are working than ever before. But far too many who want to work are still not working. So on this anniversary, we're looking forward.

Yesterday Vice President Gore announced a number of new steps we're taking to promote real choices in home- and community-based services and supports, especially with technology.

Today I thank Hillary for what she said and for her commitment. I'm the first person that ever heard that story about her going from door to door finding out why kids weren't in school 27 years ago. I've heard it several times over the last 27 years, and I never get tired of it, because the things that happen to us along life's way—sometimes something simple and unexpected that make a searing impression are the things that really enable us, sometimes many years later, to make a real difference.

Here's what we want to do today to help more Americans lead productive, self-sufficient lives. First, we must do more to remove barriers to work. Last year we raised the limits people can earn while still keeping Social Security disability benefits. From now on, the earnings limit will be automatically adjusted every year, based on the national average wage index. Now, this will reward work and help as many as 400,000 Americans with disabilities.

Second, the Federal Government must lead by example. Our Federal work force is the smallest in 40 years. But as we make new hires, we need to ensure that we're tapping the deepest pool of talent. Today I will sign an Executive order calling on the Federal Government to hire 100,000 people with disabilities by the 15th anniversary of the ADA. Now, one of the people on stage today is Mark Moore. He's a law student who helped to draft that Executive order. I want to thank him, all of the people at the Office of Personnel Management. Give Mark Moore a big hand. Thank you. [*Applause*]

Third, Members of the Senate and the House have introduced the first bipartisan "Family Opportunity Act," to ensure that children with disabilities can keep their Medicaid coverage even when their parents return to work. I plan to work with Congress to enact legislation to achieve those goals this year. We can do it this year. I thank the Members who are here who have done that.

Fourth, we're going to have a new website to be a one-stop electronic resource link for people with disabilities to log on and get the latest information on tax credits and deductions, the nearest employment and training center, to learn more about civil rights and

protections guaranteed by the ADA. It's called Access America, www.disAbility.gov.

And finally, I ask Congress again to act on important pending legislation to improve the lives of people with disabilities. We must be vigilant in defending the rights we have already secured, and our budget increases funds for ADA enforcement.

I also asked Congress to pass our \$1,000 tax credit to help workers with disabilities pay for support services and technologies needed to stay on the job, and our \$3,000 tax credit for Americans of all ages with long-term care needs. I also say the disability community in America needs a strong hate crimes bill that protects people with disabilities and a real Patients' Bill of Rights that covers Americans, all of them, in all health plans.

More than 60 years ago, President Roosevelt marked the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. He said it was an occasion for recalling great progress and a time for remembering that in the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved. Because of all you have done, America has achieved greater freedom. We have liberated not only Americans with disabilities, but as Martin Luther King said of the civil rights movement so long ago, when people find their own freedom, those who have denied it to them for too long are, themselves, made more free. We are all a freer, better country because of the ADA and what you have done.

When you look at the young people on this stage, you know that you have given them a better today. When we leave here, we should leave committed to giving them a much better tomorrow.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Justin Dart, Jr., chairman and founder, Justice For All; former Representative Steve Bartlett; former Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum; Rebecca Ogle, Executive Director, Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities; Marco Bristo, chair, National Council on Disability; and Tony Coelho, Chairman, President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Executive Order 13163—Increasing the Opportunity for Individuals With Disabilities To Be Employed in the Federal Government

July 26, 2000

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to promote an increase in the opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be employed at all levels and occupations of the Federal Government, and to support the goals articulated in section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Increasing the Federal Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities. (a) Recent evidence demonstrates that, throughout the United States, qualified persons with disabilities have been refused employment despite their availability and qualifications, and many qualified persons with disabilities are never made aware of available employment opportunities. Evidence also suggests that increased efforts at outreach, and increased understanding of the reasonable accommodations available for persons with disabilities, will permit persons with disabilities to compete for employment on a more level playing field.

(b) Based on current hiring patterns and anticipated increases from expanded outreach efforts and appropriate accommodations, the Federal Government, over the next 5 years, will be able to hire 100,000 qualified individuals with disabilities. In furtherance of such efforts, Federal agencies shall:

- (1) Use available hiring authorities, consistent with statutes, regulations, and prior Executive orders and Presidential Memoranda;
- (2) Expand their outreach efforts, using both traditional and nontraditional methods; and
- (3) Increase their efforts to accommodate individuals with disabilities.

(c) As a model employer, the Federal Government will take the lead in educating the public about employment opportunities available for individuals with disabilities.

(d) This order does not require agencies to create new positions or to change existing qualification standards for any position.

Sec. 2. Implementation. Each Federal agency shall prepare a plan to increase the opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be employed in the agency. Each agency shall submit that plan to the Office of Personnel Management within 60 days from the date of this order.

Sec. 3. Authority to Develop Guidance. The Office of Personnel Management shall develop guidance on the provisions of this order to increase the opportunities for individuals with disabilities employed in the Federal Government.

Sec. 4. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, its employees, or any person.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 26, 2000.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., July 27, 2000]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 28.

**Executive Order 13164—Requiring
Federal Agencies To Establish
Procedures To Facilitate the
Provision of Reasonable
Accommodation**

July 26, 2000

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*), as amended, and in order to promote a model Federal workplace that provides reasonable accommodation for (1) individuals with disabilities in the application process for Federal employment; (2) Federal employees with disabilities to perform the essential functions of a position; and (3) Federal employees with disabilities to enjoy benefits and

privileges of employment equal to those enjoyed by employees without disabilities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of Effective Written Procedures to Facilitate the Provision of Reasonable Accommodation. (a) Each Federal agency shall establish effective written procedures for processing requests for reasonable accommodation by employees and applicants with disabilities. The written procedures may allow different components of an agency to tailor their procedures as necessary to ensure the expeditious processing of requests.

(b) As set forth in *Re-charting the Course: The First Report of the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities* (1998), effective written procedures for processing requests for reasonable accommodation should include the following:

- (1) Explain that an employee or job applicant may initiate a request for reasonable accommodation orally or in writing. If the agency requires an applicant or employee to complete a reasonable accommodation request form for recordkeeping purposes, the form must be provided as an attachment to the agency's written procedures;
- (2) Explain how the agency will process a request for reasonable accommodation, and from whom the individual will receive a final decision;
- (3) Designate a time period during which reasonable accommodation requests will be granted or denied, absent extenuating circumstances. Time limits for decision making should be as short as reasonably possible;
- (4) Explain the responsibility of the employee or applicant to provide appropriate medical information related to the functional impairment at issue and the requested accommodation where the disability and/or need for accommodation is not obvious;
- (5) Explain the agency's right to request relevant supplemental medical information if the information submitted does not clearly explain the nature of the disability, or the need for the reasonable accommodation, or does not otherwise clarify how the requested accommodation will assist the employee to perform the essential

functions of the job or to enjoy the benefits and privileges of the workplace;

(6) Explain the agency's right to have medical information reviewed by a medical expert of the agency's choosing at the agency's expense;

(7) Provide that reassignment will be considered as a reasonable accommodation if the agency determines that no other reasonable accommodation will permit the employee with a disability to perform the essential functions of his or her current position;

(8) Provide that reasonable accommodation denials be in writing and specify the reasons for denial;

(9) Ensure that agencies' systems of recordkeeping track the processing of requests for reasonable accommodation and maintain the confidentiality of medical information received in accordance with applicable law and regulations; and

(10) Encourage the use of informal dispute resolution processes to allow individuals with disabilities to obtain prompt reconsideration of denials of reasonable accommodation. Agencies must also inform individuals with disabilities that they have the right to file complaints in the Equal Employment Opportunity process and other statutory processes, as appropriate, if their requests for reasonable accommodation are denied.

Sec. 2. Submission of Agency Reasonable Accommodation Procedures to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Within 1 year from the date of this order, each agency shall submit its procedures to the EEOC. Each agency shall also submit to the EEOC any modifications to its reasonable accommodation procedures at the time that those modifications are adopted.

Sec. 3. Collective Bargaining Obligations. In adopting their reasonable accommodation procedures, agencies must honor their obligations to notify their collective bargaining representatives and bargain over such procedures to the extent required by law.

Sec. 4. Implementation. The EEOC shall issue guidance for the implementation of this order within 90 days from the date of this order.

Sec. 5. Construction and Judicial Review.

(a) Nothing in this order limits the rights that individuals with disabilities may have under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

(b) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, its employees, or any person.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 26, 2000.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 27, 2000]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 28.

Memorandum on Renewing the Commitment To Ensure That Federal Programs are Free From Disability-Based Discrimination
July 26, 2000

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Renewing the Commitment to Ensure that Federal Programs are Free from Disability-Based Discrimination

On the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), we have much to celebrate. This landmark civil rights law has increased opportunities for employment, education, and leisure for millions of Americans. Our country is stronger as a result.

As we celebrate the ADA, we cannot forget that it was built on the solid foundation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Act) (29 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*), as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in Federal programs and activities. One important goal of the Act for the Federal Government is to set an example for the rest of the country by being a model employer and providing exemplary service to its customers with disabilities. While this goal remains constant, the nature and structure of government have changed in the decades since the inception of the Act. New agencies have been

formed, while others no longer exist. Government is more efficient and doing more with less.

The time has come to reaffirm the Federal Government's commitment to ensuring that agencies' programs are free from discrimination. The means we use to accomplish our goals should be tailored to the changing nature of government.

I call upon the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Interagency Disability Coordinating Council (IDCC), and the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities (Task Force) to provide leadership to Federal agencies in meeting their common goal: to ensure that today's Federal programs, including programs of employment, continue to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

To meet this goal, I hereby direct the DOJ and the EEOC, in close consultation with the IDCC and the Task Force, to develop priorities under which agencies will focus on specific programs or types of programs to ensure that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with the requirements of sections 501, 504, and 508 of the Act (29 U.S.C. 791, 794, 794d). As the initial steps, agencies are directed to do the following:

- (a) Make all programs offered on their Internet and Intranet sites accessible to people with disabilities by July 27, 2001, consistent with the requirements of the Act and subject to the availability of appropriations and technology; and
- (b) Publish by various means, including by incorporation on all agency Internet home pages, the name and contact information for the office(s) responsible for coordinating the agency's compliance with sections 501 and 504 of the Act (29 U.S.C. 791, 794).

I direct the IDCC to coordinate executive agencies' efforts to make the Federal Government's electronic and information technology accessible to persons with disabilities.

I designate the Administrator of General Services and the Secretary of Defense to par-

ticipate in the IDCC, in addition to those members set out by statute (29 U.S.C. 794c).

These steps will enable Federal agencies to work together as they renew their ongoing commitment to ensure that Federal programs do not discriminate against people on the basis of disability.

Nothing in this memorandum is intended in any way to limit the effect or mandate of Executive Order 12250 of November 2, 1980, which conveys certain authorities upon the Attorney General, or Executive Order 12067 of June 30, 1978, which conveys certain authorities upon the Chair of the EEOC.

This memorandum is for the internal management of the executive branch and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

William J. Clinton

Memorandum on Employing People With Significant Disabilities To Fill Federal Agency Jobs That Can Be Performed at Alternate Work Sites, Including the Home

July 26, 2000

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Employing People with Significant Disabilities to Fill Federal Agency Jobs that can be Performed at Alternate Work Sites, Including the Home

Cutting-edge telecommunications technology has recently made it possible for customer service "call/contact" centers to transmit voice and data to employees who are located at work sites other than the call/contact centers, employers' headquarters, or other centralized locations. Individuals employed as customer service representatives can work from their homes or any other accessible off-site location just as if they were working in the call/contact centers themselves. Technology also enables other types of work activities, such as the processing of insurance claims and financial transactions, to be carried out from such alternate work stations.

The unemployment rate of individuals with significant disabilities is among the highest of disadvantaged groups in the Nation. These individuals are an important untapped resource of talent and skills, and a key element in our Nation's ability to sustain our historic economic growth. The increasing use of off-site work stations to carry out significant and competitive work activities provides a critical new source of employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities.

It is in the interest of the Federal Government to utilize the skills of qualified people with significant disabilities by recruiting them for appropriate off-site, home-based employment opportunities with Federal agencies, including employment as home-based customer service representatives linked to Federal customer service call/contact centers.

To harness the power of new technologies to promote Federal sector employment of qualified people with significant disabilities, as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*), as amended, and to improve Federal customer service representation, I direct executive departments and agencies as follows:

- (a) Each head of an executive department or agency operating customer service call/contact centers shall identify positions that can be relocated to home-based or other off-site facilities, and that can be filled by qualified individuals, including those with significant disabilities.
- (b) Each head of an executive department or agency shall identify the appropriateness of using home-based and other off-site positions to carry out other specific work activities, such as the processing of insurance claims and financial transactions, that could be accomplished by qualified individuals, including those with significant disabilities.
- (c) If the head of a department or agency determines it is feasible and appropriate to use home-based and other off-site locations pursuant to its actions under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this memorandum, such head shall

develop a Plan of Action that encourages the recruitment and employment of qualified individuals with significant disabilities.

- (d) The Plan of Action developed pursuant to paragraph (c) of this memorandum shall be submitted to the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities (Task Force) (established by Executive Order 13078 of March 13, 1998) within 120 days from the date of this memorandum.
- (e) The Task Force shall review and approve agency Plans of Action and shall be responsible for developing guidance for the implementation of the plans and the provisions of this memorandum.
- (f) In implementing this memorandum, agencies must honor their obligations to notify their collective bargaining representatives and bargain over such procedures to the extent required by law.
- (g) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with merit system principles under law.
- (h) This memorandum does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its officers, its employees, or any other person.

William J. Clinton

Remarks on Fiscal Responsibility and an Exchange With Reporters

July 26, 2000

The President. For more than 7 years now, our Nation has stuck to a course of fiscal discipline, making tough choices that have resulted in the elimination of record deficits, investing in our people, and paying down our debt.

Clearly, the strategy is paying off. It has given us the longest economic expansion in our history, over 22 million new jobs, and the largest budget surplus in history. Now, we have the chance to pass responsible tax

cuts, continue to pay off the national debt, and keep our prosperity going.

Instead of following the path that got us here, congressional Republicans want America to take a U-turn. Over the past 2 weeks, they have pushed through a series of expensive tax bills, one after another. They've been in a rush to get these bills passed before their convention, but they've been in no rush to get them to my desk, because they fear what will happen when the American people have a chance to add them all up and do the math.

Taken together, Republican tax bills now stacking up from this Congress would cost nearly \$2 trillion over 10 years. By our accounting, that would put America back into deficits. Even by their own rosy scenario, the Republican tax bills consume every dime of the surplus the American people have worked so hard to create. That's what this chart shows.

However you add it up, a \$2 trillion tax plan is too big, too reckless, too irresponsible. It leaves nothing for lengthening the life of Social Security and Medicare to make provision for the baby boomers' retirement. It leaves nothing for adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. It leaves nothing for greater investment in education or the environment or science and technology or health. It would make it impossible for us to get America out of debt by 2012.

Now, if the congressional Republicans truly think these tax cuts are good policy, instead of just good politics, they should put them together and send them down to me right now, before they break for their convention. Then the American people can add up the costs and draw their own conclusions. But if they adjourn for the summer and the bills aren't on my desk, the American people will know that they're playing politics with our surpluses.

Remember something else—and this is very important—these are projected surpluses. It's not money we have now but money we might have over the next 10 years. Think about it. If you got one of those sweepstakes envelopes from Ed McMahon in the mail saying you may have won \$10 million, would you go out and spend it? Well, if you would, you should support their tax plan, but if you wouldn't, you should think again be-

cause that's what the congressional Republicans want us to do, commit right now to spend all the money that we might get over the next 10 years.

In good conscience I cannot sign one of these tax breaks after another without any coherent strategy for safeguarding our future and meeting our other national priorities. At this rate, there will be no resources left for extending the life of Social Security and Medicare, for adding a real prescription drug benefit to Medicare, for investing in education, or for getting us out of debt. And getting us out of debt will keep interest rates low and keep our economy growing. That could give the American people the biggest tax cut of all.

Lower interest rates, in a way, are the biggest tax cut we can give to most Americans. Because of the deficit and debt reduction already achieved, the average American family—listen to this—the average American family is already paying \$2,000 less a year in mortgage payments, \$200 less a year in car payments, and \$200 less a year in student loan payments.

If we keep interest rates just one percent lower over 10 years, which is about what my Council of Economic Advisers thinks we'll do if we keep paying down the debt instead of giving it all away in tax cuts, homeowners—listen to this—homeowners will save \$250 billion over the next 10 years in lower home mortgage rates alone. That's \$850 a family a year in lower mortgage payments.

And then to see what people are getting, you would have to add proportionally lower car payments, lower college loan payments. And of course, with lower interest rates businesses will be able to borrow more easily and invest more, creating more jobs to sustain our prosperity. The more you do the math the less sense the Republican tax plan makes.

Consider this: The typical middle class family will get \$220 a year from the tax cuts the Republicans have passed this year—just the ones they've passed this year, not in this Congress. If interest rates went up because of the Republican plan one-third of one percent, just one-third of one percent, then that average family's mortgage payments would go up by \$270, completely wiping out the

tax cut and leaving the average family worse off than they were before. It does not have to be that way.

I have proposed tax cuts to give middle class Americans more benefits than the tax bills the Republicans have passed at less than half the cost. Two-thirds of the relief of our proposal will go to the middle 60 percent of Americans, including our targeted marriage penalty tax relief.

Our tax cuts would also help send our children to college with a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in college tuition a year, help to care for sick family members with a \$3,000 long-term care tax credit, help to pay for child care and to ease the burden on working families with three or more children, to pay for desperately needed school construction.

And because our plan will cost substantially less than the tax cuts passed by the Congress, we'll still have enough money—and this is critical—we'll still have enough money left to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit, to extend the life of Social Security and Medicare, to pay for the baby boomers' retirement, and to stay on track to be debt-free by 2012, and I might add, to keep interest rates lower so that we'll have billions of dollars in lower home mortgages, car payments, and college loan payments.

We should have tax cuts this year. But they should be the right ones, targeted to working families to help our economy grow, not tax bills so big they put our prosperity at risk. Now, we've tried it our way for 8 years, and we've tried it their way for several years before then. I say to Congress, stop passing tax bills you know I'll have to veto; start working together with us on a balanced budget that cuts taxes for middle class families, continues to pay off the national debt, and invests in America's future.

Over the last 7 years, our country has overcome tremendous odds to create a moment of unprecedented prosperity and promise. But how we respond to good fortune is as stern test of our values, our judgment, and our character as a nation as how we deal with adversity. I think we'll meet the challenge, and when we do, we'll ensure that America's best years are still to come.

Thank you.

Q. Are you still going to veto each of the bills if the Republicans did send them down to you?

The President. That is my plan. You know, a lot of these bills, individually, have a lot of appeal; I'm sure they do. And maybe, collectively, they have a lot of appeal until you know what they cost. But it's obvious that if you look at the income tax bill they passed last year and all these bills they're passing this year, together, they just eat up the projected surplus.

And let me say, the projected surplus is based on not only—let me just make a few more points to you. The projected surplus is based not only on, I believe, a very rosy scenario by them, a somewhat less optimistic scenario from us; it's also based on an assumption of spending which assumes that Federal spending will grow less than the economy will grow over the next 10 years, which is, at least if you look at the record of even the Republican Congress over the last 4 years, a highly questionable assumption.

So keep in mind, this is before they spend money for anything, before they pay for their proposed national missile defense, before they pay for the promises being made in this national campaign on the domestic side, before they may decide that, at least for the things they like to spend money on, like highways and things, they want the spending to grow as fast as the economy grows.

This is a prescription, make no mistake about it, for going back to the economic policy of the past and going back to higher interest rates, and higher interest rates which will take away the benefit of the tax cut to the vast majority of Americans and undermine the long-term economic strength of the country. I know that it's not as appealing in election year, maybe, but we're right to pay the debt down. We need to keep getting America out of debt. We need to get rid of it. It's the right thing to do for the young people of the country.

Q. Do the increased projected surpluses make it harder for you to make this case with every headline saying we're going to see this much more than we thought? Does that make it more difficult for you to argue that there is no room for these tax cuts?

The President. Well, again, I think in the beginning it does. That's why I'm here making the argument. But it doesn't change the reality. If you look at the projected surplus, just look at the spending levels alone, the projected surplus is based on, by the Congressional Budget Office, and then just—but the main thing I want to say is, once you put these tax cuts in, they're in. They're not like spending bills. You know, if Congress wants to spend money, they come in next year, and they spend money again.

So if the money turns out to be—let's suppose they spend money in 2001, and they've got a 5-year program. But in 2002 the revenues tail off; well, they don't have to appropriate as much money. They can always cut back on spending. But once you put the tax cuts in, they're in. It's a lot harder to say, "Well, I made a mistake. I think I'll raise taxes."

So there should be a tax cut. No one questions that there should be a tax cut. The question is, how big should it be and who should be helped by it and what are the other interests the country has? We shouldn't mislead the American people about our obligations to keep interest rates low, because almost all Americans will be hurt more by higher interest rates than they can possibly be helped by any of these proposed tax cuts. And we shouldn't mislead the American people about the money we think the Congress is really going to have to spend.

This takes into account—what if we have in the next 10 years a bunch of farm emergencies, like we've had for the last 3? Let's go back and look at the extra money we've poured into spending on agriculture alone in the last 3. And if you were in Congress, wouldn't you want to at least see education spending grow at the rate of the economy growing? And look at the commitments they've made there.

And so I'd just tell you, the idea that we would say, "Okay, here's the surplus. Now let's pass tax cuts which take it all away, and never mind what might happen to the revenues, and never mind what new investments we might have to make as a country that we don't even know about now for the next 10 years"—I think it's very troubling.

Dick Cheney

Q. Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think Governor Bush played it safe in choosing Dick Cheney as a running mate? And would you advise Vice President Gore to similarly play it safe in choosing his running mate?

The President. Well, first of all, I don't know—I think the most important thing about that decision is that it will—and everything I know about Mr. Cheney, personally, I like. I actually was kind of pleased by the decision, because there's no question that he has many years of experience in the Congress and in the previous Bush administration.

But the thing I liked about it was, it further clarified the choices for the American people, and I think that's important. I think the most important thing you want out of any election is that the voters understand what they're doing when they vote, and they understand that there are consequences to their vote. And it further clarifies that there are significant choices here to be made. There are big differences on the environment, on gun safety, on a woman's right to choose, on civil rights enforcement, and on economic policy. That's what I think the election ought to be about.

I think this ought to be a positive election where people say good things about their opponents, personally, and say they have honest differences. And I think having Mr. Cheney coming on the ticket will help to clarify that there are big, profound differences between the two leaders and the tickets, and that those differences will have real consequences for the country. And I think because he's a good man, we can further dispense with the 20 years of politics of personal destruction and focus on the differences between the people that are running and the parties and how it will change life in America.

So I think anything that clarifies the debate, lifts it up, focuses it on the issue differences, is positive. And there are real, huge differences, and I think this will help to clarify them, and I think that's positive.

Recess Appointments

Q. Mr. President, you've complained that Congress has been slow to act on your appointments for judgeships and ambassadorial posts. If they don't act, do you feel in a mood to do this by recess appointments?

The President. Well, first, I have made no decision on this. I haven't made any kind of—I haven't had a meeting about it. As you know, I've been otherwise occupied the last couple of weeks. I'd like to begin by just citing the record here.

I have bent over backwards to respect the constitutional senatorial appointment process. The record will reflect that I have made less use of recess appointments than either President Bush or President Reagan, even when I had a Republican Senate the way they had Democratic Senates. I think the record will reflect that I have shown more restraint in that, even when I've had a little more partisan differences with the Senate than they did on the appointments process—my predecessors.

So I have shown a reluctance to make robust use of that option. And I just have—to be perfectly candid, I've been so absorbed with other things, I have not—I don't even know for sure what my options are, what's out there, what irrevocable consequences could result if I don't use it during this session, in terms of unfairness to particular individuals or to the public interest. So I've just got to look at the facts and make a judgment. But I have not made a decision yet.

Q. It does sound like your patience is running out it, though.

The President. No, but I really haven't made a judgment on this. I've never been—if you just look at the record here, I have not been a big user of recess appointments, because I respect the whole process by which the Senate reviews these things, even when I think it's been strained. But I honestly haven't made a decision yet. I just have to look and see what the options are.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. On the Middle East, Mr. President, the Palestinians are saying the deal on the table on Jerusalem is just not doable. If that's the case, how can there ever be a compromise?

The President. Well, first of all, let me try to frame this in a way that I think that the Palestinians and the Israelis, and I would hope other friends of peace around the world, would think about it. We all know how hard Jerusalem is because it goes to the sense of identity of both the Palestinian and the Israeli people, and in a larger sense, the adherence of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity all around the world.

In a sense, therefore, the city of Jerusalem is not just Yerushalayim for the Israelis and Al-Quds for the Palestinians. It is a holy place that reaches beyond even the geographical boundaries of the city.

If there is to be an agreement here, it must be one which meets the legitimate interests of both parties. And that requires a certain imagination and flexibility of defining those interests and then figuring out an institutional and legal framework for them that, frankly, just takes more time and more reflection and probably less pressure than was available in our 15 days at Camp David.

But in any negotiation, it must be possible for both sides to say they got most of what they wanted and needed, that they were not routed from the field, that there was honorable compromise. And so, therefore, the issues cannot be framed in a "you have to lose in order for me to win, and in order for you to win, I have to lose" framework. If they are like that, you're correct, then we can never reach an agreement.

But I have spent a great deal of time, obviously, not only studying about this but listening to the two sides talk about it, think about it, and looking at all the options available for a potential resolution of it. And all I can tell you is, I'm convinced that if the issue is preserving the fundamental interests of the Palestinians and the Israelis and the genuine sanctity of the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish interest in the Holy City, then I think we can do that. I just do. But we couldn't do it in the 15 days we were there.

The decision that will have to be made is whether there is a way—for example, in this case, you mentioned the Palestinians—for the Palestinians to win their fundamental interest without also winning the right to say they have routed the Israelis, or whether there's a way for the Israelis to protect their

fundamental interests without also winning the right to say they have stuck it to the Palestinians. I believe there is, and we're going to explore how we might persuade them, all of them, that there is and where we go from here.

And I hope that just this kind of thing I've been talking about will spark a whole range of "oh" articles in the press, commentators on the TV programs, other people talking and thinking this way, trying to be innovative and open and—you know, I realize the incredible pressure these people were under in even having this discussion. That is, in the end, why I realized we couldn't get it done in 2 weeks. You've got to get used to talking about something for a little bit before you can then entertain how you can create an edifice that you hadn't previously imagined. And I think we'll be able to do it.

Q. How long are you going to wait before you give it another shot?

The President. Well, it depends. I can't answer that. I've tried to make the judgments here for 8 years based on what I thought would aid the process, and I can't yet tell, Mark, [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio] what would be most in aid of the process. I just can't tell yet.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ed McMahon, spokesperson, Publishers' Clearinghouse Sweepstakes; and Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority

July 26, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I have the pleasure of transmitting to you the Twenty-first Annual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 1999.

The report includes information on the cases heard and decisions rendered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Gen-

eral Counsel of the Authority, and the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 26, 2000.

Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate Terry L. Lierman

July 26, 2000

Thank you very much. Let me say to all of you, I thank you for being here. And I want to thank the organizers of this event for holding it in this wonderful museum. It's one of Hillary's and my favorite places in all of Washington, DC, and I hope you'll always support it and bring some people back here. This is a great thing for the women of America, this museum, and I'm delighted to be here.

I want to thank Governor Glendening for what he said and for his sterling leadership. Maryland, in so many ways, has led the country in education and health policy and so many other things since Parris Glendening has been Governor and Kathleen Kennedy Townsend has been Lieutenant Governor. I am so proud of them. I have been to Maryland more than any other State in America the last 8 years, to highlight reforms at the State level that work. And it's a real tribute to him. I'm grateful to him.

I also want to thank the Members of Congress who are here and those who are gone. I know Steny Hoyer was here; I heard him, with his booming voice, speaking when I came in and started taking pictures with a few of you. And I thank him and Al Wynn. And thank you, Jim Moran, for being here. Thank you, Elijah Cummings, for being here. And thank you, Patrick Kennedy, for being here, out there in the crowd, just one of the folks, like all the Kennedys. [Laughter] I appreciate you being here. Good for you.

Patrick has been the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which means he has to go out and make sure all the House Members have enough money to get on television. So he's

just out here checking you all out. He'll probably call you all tomorrow for somebody else. [Laughter] But you've done a great job. Thank you, Patrick.

Finally, I want to say a word of appreciation and admiration and thanks to Senator Paul Sarbanes—I think not only one of the brightest but one of the most wise people in the United States Congress. You are very lucky to have him as your Senator. I'm glad to see him and Christina here tonight. Thank you.

And I would like to thank Terry and his entire family, because this is a family endeavor, for their commitment to this race and to the future of our country. It is not easy to run for Congress today, still less to run against an incumbent and to run for a clear reason that overrides his or anyone else's individual interests. And I admire him for doing it, for taking it on, and for doing it with such gusto. So I thank you, and I thank your family.

Now, it is true, as all of you know, that I've been up most of the last 15 days. This will be the first night in 15 nights that I've been to bed before 2 o'clock in the morning, and the most of the nights we were at Camp David, we went to bed at 3 or 4. The last 2 nights we were all up until 5 o'clock in the morning. Somewhere in the middle—I can't remember exactly when—I flew to Okinawa and back. [Laughter] So I'm just barely here.

But I'm honored to be here. I'm very grateful to the people of Maryland for voting for me and Al Gore twice, for giving us a chance to serve, and I thank you for that. I just want to say two or three things.

First of all, this is a profoundly important election. Ninety-two was a big election because the country was in trouble. And the people voted for me and gave me a chance, even though most of them probably, when they first heard about me running, had the same reaction Abe Pollin did. [Laughter] I'll never forget President Bush referring to me as the Governor of a small southern State. [Laughter] And when I ran, I was so naive, I thought it was a compliment. [Laughter] And you know something? I still do.

But it didn't take rocket science to figure out we needed to make a change in the coun-

try. But now—it's interesting, a lot of these surveys show that people don't know if there is a real difference between the Vice President and the Republican candidate's economic policy or the two parties—what's the deal here?

And the first thing I have to drum home is that this is a really important election. And a lot of people won't believe that because things seem to be going well. You say, "Well, how can it be so important? The economy is strong. We've got a surplus. All the social indicators are going well: The unemployment rate is the lowest it's been in 30 years; the welfare rolls have been cut in half; the crime rate is dropping; teen pregnancy rate is dropping; drug use among young people is dropping. What's the big deal here? We have no internal crisis or pressing external threat. The United States is involved in making peace around the world and all that."

I'll tell you what the big deal is. In my lifetime we have never had a moment where we had this much prosperity, this much social progress, and this much national self-confidence. But the world is changing very fast, and there are all these huge challenges and opportunities out there. And for the first time in my adult lifetime, we're actually free to talk about what we might do to meet them, to build the future of our dreams for the children here. And I'm so glad so many kids came to this.

So the reason it's so important is, I don't know when we'll ever have another chance like this. It may be another 35 years. It may be another 50 years. And for a democracy, it's normally quite difficult to take on big challenges, except when you're under the gun. So I honestly believe how a nation deals with this kind of prosperity and all the opportunities it presents in a rapidly changing world is just as stern a test of our character, our values, and our judgment as how we dealt with adversity 8 years ago. And it may be harder.

There is not a person in this audience tonight over 30 years old who can't remember once in your life when you made a big mistake, not because things were going so bad but because things were going so well that

you thought there was no penalty to the failure to concentrate. But make no mistake, this is a huge election.

The second thing I want to say to you is that there are big differences—huge. And I'll talk a little about some of them in a minute.

And the third thing I want to say is, only the Democrats want you to know what the differences are. [*Laughter*] What does that tell you about who you ought to vote for? [*Laughter*] It beats anything I ever saw. My wife's opponent up in New York is running ads with me and Senator Moynihan in them; running ads saying, "I voted for a patients' bill of rights." The operative word there is "a," as opposed to "the." And it's happening all over the country, just blur, blur, blur, take advantage of the era of good feelings, out-spend them, and smile them to death and hope nobody ever figures out what the differences are.

There are real differences. And I'll just start with economic policy. Today I announced that since this Congress began last year, the Republicans have, piece by piece, passed tax cuts equal to the whole projected surplus over the next 10 years—the whole projected surplus. That's before we spend any money over and above bare inflation, before we deal with any emergency, before they spend any of their spending priorities. And let me remind you, this is projected. And their platform calls for even bigger tax increases. Now, what they want to tell you is, "Hey, this economy is so strong, you couldn't mess it up with a stick of dynamite. It's your money. I'm going to give it back to you." That's their line.

Our line is, "We got where we are being fiscally responsible. We want to keep paying down the debt. We want to have enough money to invest in the education of our children, in science and technology, in the environment and health care, and we'll give you a tax cut to educate your kids, for child care, for long-term care, for elderly and disabled people, to help people save for retirement, to help especially lower income working people with a lot of kids." But we're not going to tell you, even in an election year, we can give you more than is prudent because we've got to keep the economy strong. And if you keep interest rates low, which we'll do and

they won't, one percent lower interest rates over the next decade is worth \$250 billion in lower home mortgages—\$250 billion—and nearly \$50 billion more in lower car payments and in college loan payments.

So here's my pitch to you: If you got one of those letters in the mail from Ed McMahon—[*laughter*—and it says, you know how it says on the envelope, you may have won \$10 million. Would you go out the next day and spend the \$10 million, based on the envelope? Well, if you would, you ought to be for them. If not, you better stick with us and keep this economy going.

There couldn't be any bigger difference in economic policy than there is in this year. They actually want to go—they think now that we have gotten the budget balanced and now we've run a surplus and we've paid \$300 billion or \$400 billion off the national debt, that you'll be willing to go back to what they did for 12 years. That's the deal here. That's what this election is about on economic policy. It could hardly be a starker difference. And you have to decide. And then you've got to talk to other people about it.

Then there is a big difference in social policy. We want to have a responsible gun safety approach in America. We want to strengthen the Brady bill and close the gun show loophole. We want to stop the importation of large capacity ammunition clips. We want child safety locks on all the guns in America, like Maryland already requires. And Vice President Gore and I believe that people that buy handguns ought to have a photo I.D. license, just like a car license, to prove you passed a gun safety check and a background check. That's what I believe. They honestly don't believe that. I'm convinced they didn't just sell out to the NRA; they just agree with them. You don't have to say anything bad about them; they just don't believe that.

Now, we've tried it their way. We've tried it our way. And gun crime has dropped 35 percent since we adopted the Brady bill and the assault weapons ban, and a half a million people were denied the right to buy handguns because they had a criminal background problem or some other problem in their background that made them manifestly unfit. You have to decide.

The NRA says, if the other crowd wins the White House, they'll have an office there. That's what they said. That's not a negative campaign ad. That's what they said.

That's another new feature you'll notice in this election. This year the Republicans, who pioneered for 20 years negative campaigns, smashing us all to bits and telling everybody how terrible we were and how there was nothing good about us—they now have sworn off negative campaigns. Furthermore, their definition of a negative campaign is if you say how they voted. [*Laughter*] If you tell people how they—how dare you do such a thing. How can you be so mean and unfair as to tell people how we voted and what we said in the primary, when we hoped no general election voters were looking? It's a big deal.

Look, we're laughing, having a good time. But this is a big deal. This is about people's lives. Yes, we've got the lowest crime rate in a long time, and yes, I'm proud it has dropped every year. But this country is not near safe enough. You know it's not. I know it's not. And it's important.

There is a huge difference in health care policy. Whether we're going to provide Medicare for the baby boom generation without bankrupting our kids, whether we're going to provide a real, affordable prescription drug benefit for all the seniors in our country who need it. The bill that they passed won't work, and even if it did, it would leave more than half the seniors who need the drug coverage behind. It's just crazy. It's not right.

And I could just go on and on and on. There are real, significant differences here. The hate crimes legislation, should we have it or not? Employment and nondiscrimination, should we have it or not? It's a huge issue.

The final thing I want to say is that a lot of you talked to me tonight about the Middle East peace process. And I don't want to say any more than I've already said, except that it's nowhere near over, and I think it was a very important 2 weeks. The parties had never before really come to grips in an official, face-to-face way with the profound differences in the way they imagined their future and the profound similarities. But you should not be disheartened.

But here's what I want to tell you about that. It is the most visible and powerful example in the world today about how we define our differences and our commonality. You all know that one of the most profound differences is over what the future of Jerusalem should be. It's interesting, isn't it, that the three great monotheistic religions of the world basically grew out of the same soil and look at Jerusalem as their Holy City.

Now, if all these people, billions of them now in the world that believe there is just one God who created us all, and they understand that reality in slightly different ways, how can it be that what is different about them is more important than their common humanity as children of God?

I say that to those of you who saw the accounts over the weekend—I'm telling you, these are very impressive people on these negotiating teams. They're very impressive people. And you thought, "Well, gosh, I'd wish they'd worked out—I wonder why they couldn't work that out. I wonder why people ever can't get over their differences to what they have in common."

You know, why couldn't the Irish and the Catholics in Northern Ireland get over it for so long? It's a little-bitty place, smaller than Israel, even. Why did all the Orthodox Christians and the Catholics and the Muslims in the Balkans bloody themselves in Bosnia and Kosovo and before in Croatia? Why do these things happen?

Well, why do we ever have racial discrimination in America? Why do we still have hate crimes? Why does some guy go nuts in the Middle West and kill the African-American former basketball coach at Northwestern and then shoot a young, Korean Christian walking out of church? And why did a crazy guy shoot a bunch of Jewish kids going to their community center in L.A., and then kill a Filipino postal worker because he was Asian and a Federal employee? Why did Matthew Shepard get stretched out on a rack?

Now, the point I'm trying to make is this—and I'm not accusing the Republicans of this. But one of the things that I'm proudest of is that the Democratic Party is the more inclusive party in America. We are. I was so proud of a man that I think a lot of, actually—a Republican United States Senator who gave

a speech for the hate crimes legislation, using the parable of what Jesus said to the woman who was caught in sin and brought to him for stoning. And he said to let he who is among you without sin cast the first stone. The whole Senate was practically weeping when this guy spoke. It was so moving.

But why is that? Because they were surprised that a member of his party and his wing of his party would do such a noble thing. It was a noble thing he did. But why were they surprised? Because they expect us—the American people expect us to stand up for inclusion for people, without regard to their background, their race, their religion, their sexual orientation, or their income. They expect us to stand up for ordinary people and the left-behind and the broken and the vulnerable. And I'm proud of that.

I tell people this all the time. You ought to be for the Democrats this year because our economic policy is right, and it's no time to reverse it. You ought to be for us because we'll try to include everybody, including those who aren't part of our economic prosperity. You ought to be for us because we will think of the future and we want the baby boomers to be able to retire without bankrupting their children and grandchildren. You ought to be for us because we have a good education policy and a good environmental policy.

But the most important thing of all is, we really do want to take everybody along for the ride. And in the end, as I have just learned over 15 hard days, that is the most important thing of all.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:27 p.m. at the Museum of Women in the Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Sarbanes' wife, Christina; Abe Pollin, owner, National Basketball Association Washington Wizards, and chairman of Mr. Lierman's campaign; Gov. George W. Bush of Texas; and Ed McMahon, spokesperson, Publishers' Clearinghouse Sweepstakes. Mr. Lierman is a candidate for Maryland's Eighth Congressional District.

Statement on Signing the Griffith Project Prepayment and Conveyance Act

July 26, 2000

Today I have signed into law S. 986, the "Griffith Project Prepayment and Conveyance Act," a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Griffith Project to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA).

This legislation is consistent with Administration policy of transferring certain facilities to private water districts where it is more efficient for the nonfederal entity to manage the project. I am pleased that the Congress addressed many Administration concerns with earlier versions of this legislation. For example, the bill clarifies questions regarding the lands to be transferred and eligibility for future benefits for Bureau of Reclamation programs.

I am disappointed that the bill directs rather than authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey the facilities of the Project. My Administration believes that prior to transferring title, the Secretary should conduct a meaningful National Environmental Policy Act analysis so that the Department, the Congress, and the public can fully understand the impacts of the proposed transfer, its alternatives, and potential mitigation measures. My Administration continues to oppose such mandatory provisions in transfer bills. However, because of the cooperative efforts with the SNWA and the progress made to date in the environmental review, the Department of the Interior indicates that it believes that the process can be satisfactorily completed with regard to this Project.

In signing S. 986, I state my interpretation that section 5(c) of the bill, which provides that nothing in the Act shall transfer or affect Federal ownership, rights, or interest in Lake Mead National Recreation Area associated lands, nor affect the authorities of the National Park Service to manage the Area, read together with section 3(b)(2), makes clear that no interests in real property would transfer to the SNWA other than the right-of-way

that is reasonably necessary for the Authority to operate, maintain, replace, and repair the Griffith Project, as constituted on the date of enactment of this Act. Further, notwithstanding language in the bill that provides that the right-of-way shall be “at no cost,” the Federal Government is not prevented from seeking reimbursement for expenditures associated with implementing this Act and protecting the resources of Lake Mead National Recreation Area when rights-of-way are established.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 26, 2000.

NOTE: S. 986, approved July 26, was assigned Public Law No. 106–249. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 27.

Remarks on the Democratic Legislative Agenda

July 27, 2000

The President. Well, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, on behalf of all of us, I want to apologize—please be seated—for keeping you waiting. But these are the closing hours of the congressional session, before the August recess. And Senator Daschle and Leader Gephardt and the other Members of Congress have come here today to speak with one voice about our position. But Congress is packing up and preparing to adjourn for the summer recess and the two conventions. And I only wish we were late because they’d been out there passing our bills. [*Laughter*]

Let me say, we’re here because we believe the congressional Republican leadership is leaving town with a trunk full of unfinished business vital to the health of our economy and the well-being of our people. We spent the last 7 years charting a course of fiscal discipline and investment in our people, and it has paid off, with the longest economic expansion in history, over 22 million new jobs, the lowest minority unemployment rate in our history, the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years.

Instead of continuing on that path in the last few weeks, indeed, for the last year, the

Republican majority has risked squandering our progress. They have passed reckless tax cut after reckless tax cut after reckless tax cut, to drain away our hard-earned surplus and put us back in the red. When you add them all up, this Congress has passed tax bills that would cost nearly \$2 trillion over 10 years. Even by the most optimistic estimates, this wouldn’t leave a dime for lengthening the life of Social Security or Medicare—not one dime; not a dime for voluntary and affordable Medicare prescription drug benefits or for education and school construction. And it would make it impossible for us to get America out of debt by 2012.

There is a better way. We can do all the things I just mentioned and still give the American people needed, targeted tax relief. Let me be clear. We do support the right kind of tax cuts for working Americans. I have proposed a program of cuts that will give a middle class American family substantially more benefits than the Republican plan at less than half the cost; two-thirds of the relief going to the middle 60 percent of our people, including our carefully targeted marriage penalty relief.

The tax cuts will also help families save up to \$2,800 a year on the cost of college by making tuition tax deductible; a \$3,000 long-term care tax credit to help millions of Americans shoulder the enormous financial burden of caring for chronically ill family members; and a tax cut that will help millions of families pay up to \$2,400 a year for child care; to expand the EITC, providing up to \$1,100 of tax relief for millions of hard-working families.

Today, we have more evidence that our plan will help more of the people who really need it. We’re releasing a State-by-State analysis, showing that the estate tax repeal, recently passed by the Republican majority, would benefit only about 2 percent of America’s families—the wealthiest 2 percent, of course—providing them of an average tax cut of \$800,000. And fully half those benefits would go to just one-tenth of one percent of all Americans.

Let me hasten to say the Democrats offered an alternative which would have taken two-thirds of the people subject to the estate tax out from under it but would have left

its progressive character, not repealed it entirely, and not cost the budget \$100 billion over the first 10 years and \$750 billion thereafter.

In contrast to these proposals, our Medicare prescription drug benefit would provide affordable coverage for 39 million seniors and people with disabilities, with average incomes of about \$20,000 a year. This report clearly shows that our approach put the interest of American families first and ensures that the Nation's unprecedented prosperity benefits everyone.

Let me just mention one other thing. I never want to talk about this without mentioning—we also have a report from the Council of Economic Advisers estimating that if our economic proposals are followed, as opposed to theirs, giving all this money away with the tax cuts, interest rates will be one percent lower over the next decade. That is the equivalent of a \$250 billion tax cut for home mortgages. It's the equivalent of a \$30 billion tax cut for lower car payments and college loan payments.

There is a huge difference here that the American people have to understand. I think the Republican majority ought to go to work in the time we have left this year on the people's business.

So when they go off on vacation, the congressional majority should take a long list of required summer reading, a list of what we need to get done when they come back to Washington: to strengthen and modernize Social Security and Medicare and add that prescription drug benefit; to stand up to special interest and pass a strong and enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights; to pass common-sense gun legislation to close the gun show loophole, require child safety locks for all handguns, ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips; to raise the minimum wage by \$1 over 2 years; to continue hiring those 100,000 teachers; to reduce class sizes in the early grades; to improve teacher quality; to modernize 6,000 of our schools that are literally falling apart and repair another 5,000 a year; and to provide after-school programs and summer school programs for all the kids in this country who need it so that we can turn around those fail-

ing schools; and we need to stop the delay and pass strong hate crimes legislation.

This is not a list to be read; it's a list to be acted upon. *[Applause]* Thank you. I hope when Congress comes back, they'll do it. Again, I want to thank all the Members that are here, and another 40 or 50 or so that wanted to come, but because of the way the timetable and the voting is unfolding, they can't.

I'm going to modify the program just a little bit and ask Senator Daschle to come forward, because he's got to get back to make sure we don't lose any more votes. Senator Daschle.

[At this point, Senator Thomas A. Daschle and Representative Richard A. Gephardt made brief remarks.]

The President. Debbie, I want to ask your parents and all your siblings and family members to stand. Everybody that is here from Debbie's family, stand up. Isn't that great? *[Applause]* Bless you.

I just want to make a couple of points in closing. If the Congress passed only our college opportunity tax cut, it would be worth 10 times as much to families like Debbie's as the entire Republican tax cut.

The second thing I want to say is, if interest rates rise one percent higher than they otherwise would be because we spend the entire surplus on tax cuts, it will cost the average family \$270 a year, which is more than they'll get in a tax cut.

The final thing I want to say is this. Even if you don't think you'll get any benefits out of any of these tax cuts we've proposed—keep in mind, all this proposed surplus that they want to spend is just that; it's estimated. We don't have a dollar of it yet.

Now, if you got one of those letters in the mail from Ed McMahon—*[laughter]*—that said, you may have won \$10 million, would you go out and spend \$10 million the next day? If you would, you should support their plan. *[Laughter]* But if you wouldn't, you better stick with us and keep the prosperity going and help people like Debbie.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to George Washington University student Debbie Boudoulvas, who described how proposed tax legislation would benefit her family; and Ed McMahon, spokesperson, Publishers' Clearinghouse Sweepstakes. The President also referred to EITC, the earned-income tax credit. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senator Daschle and Representative Gephardt.

Radio Remarks on Restoration of the Wild Salmon of the Pacific Northwest
July 27, 2000

Today my administration is proposing a comprehensive strategy to bring back the wild salmon of the Pacific Northwest. We'll pursue a practical course that will help both the economy and the environment. Congress must also do its part by fully funding my salmon restoration budget, and the people of the Pacific Northwest must be prepared to take the necessary steps. Only in partnership with State and tribal governments and other stakeholders can we restore the salmon without resorting to costlier measures. I welcome the recommendations of the region's Governors and look forward to working together to ensure our success.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 2:30 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House for immediate broadcast. These remarks were also made available on the White House Press Office Actuality Line.

Statement on the Need for Congressional Action on the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act
July 27, 2000

It is long past time that we correct several injustices in the immigration system by changing the registry date and amending the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA). People who have been living for many years in the United States and have developed strong ties to their communities deserve the opportunity to normalize their immigration status. There is no reason for Congress to stand in the way of a reasonable bipartisan bill to increase H-

1B visas, invest in our workers, and correct these longstanding injustices. Congress should not pass H-1B or any other immigration legislation this year without ensuring that these injustices are addressed. The American people deserve no less.

Statement on Congressional Action on Tax Cut Legislation
July 27, 2000

I am disappointed that the Republican Congress continues to strip away our fiscal discipline bill-by-bill by passing another in a series of costly tax cuts that, taken together, will spend our entire hard-earned surplus. This misguided plan leaves nothing for lengthening the life of Social Security and Medicare, nothing for a prescription drug benefit, nothing for education or other priorities, and would make it impossible for us to get America out of debt by 2012. In its latest action, the House passed a bill that does nothing for more than 80 percent of seniors while failing to act on a Medicare prescription drug benefit which would be available to all Seniors and people with disabilities.

This is the wrong approach. We can maintain our fiscal discipline while providing targeted tax relief to help families pay for college, long-term care, child care, build and modernize schools, and save for retirement. In the interest of fiscal responsibility, I will veto this legislation that threatens our ability to pay down the debt, strengthen Medicare and Social Security, and invest in education.

Statement on the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

July 27, 2000

This week I sent to the Senate two historic United Nations protocols that will protect the world's children in unprecedented new ways. Over the past 7 years, I am proud of the work we have done with Congress on a bipartisan basis to stand up for young people and protect the dignity and rights of children around the world. These two protocols will

build on that work. One of these agreements prohibits the forcible recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. The other protects children from slavery, prostitution, and pornography. Together, they represent a large step forward in the international effort to eliminate abuses committed against our children and keep them safe.

Both of these agreements were adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on May 25th, and the United States was among the first nations to sign them. I was pleased to see that both the Senate (on June 7th) and the House of Representatives (on July 11th) expressed their support for the Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Neither agreement will create obligations for the United States under any international agreement to which we are not a party. I am hopeful that the Senate will act quickly and give its advice and consent to both of these agreements by the end of the year.

Statement Announcing a Study of Compensation and Benefits for Filipino Veterans

July 27, 2000

Today I am directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to produce a study on the needs of Filipino veterans who served with the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. I have asked that the study provide specific options on how our Veterans Affairs' health care system can address the needs of these Filipino veterans now living in the United States.

During World War II, Filipino nationals were called into military service by Executive order of the President and fought valiantly under U.S. command to help achieve peace and freedom in the Pacific. After the war, the United States made grants to the Philippine Government to provide for the needs of these veterans. In addition, some are eligible for benefits under the United States veterans system. However, many of these deserving veterans living in the United States are currently not eligible for such benefits.

For several years, my administration has worked with Members of Congress such as Representatives Bob Filner and Patsy Mink

to recognize the contributions of Filipino veterans and to improve the compensation and benefits of those living in the United States. As this population ages, it has a growing need for quality health care. That is why I am asking the Department of Veterans Affairs to look at ways we can address their needs. I look forward to the Department's recommendations. I am eager to find a way to fulfill the needs of this deserving group of veterans.

Memorandum on a Study of Compensation and Benefits for Filipino Veterans

July 27, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Study of Compensation and Benefits for Filipino Veterans

My Administration has recognized the unique contribution of Filipino veterans of the Second World War and worked to improve their compensation and benefits. In fact, for the last two sessions of Congress we have proposed legislation to eliminate the current dollar limitation for authorized compensation payments to Filipino beneficiaries residing in the United States. The proposed legislation has not been enacted. This reality, coupled with the fact that numerous Filipino veterans have immigrated to this country, suggests that we need to raise awareness of the issues and options to help this group of deserving veterans.

To that end, I am directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to complete a study by October 31, 2000, of the needs of these veterans and the options available for addressing those needs. This study shall be conducted in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Department of State, and the Department of Defense, and would include a historical background of, and the issues associated with, the benefits afforded to Filipino veterans. It should also take into consideration changes in the Filipino veteran population and review options relative to the benefits afforded these

veterans. It also would include the cost implications of options approved by OMB.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt
the Middle East Peace Process**

July 27, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 27, 2000.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on Efforts To
Achieve Sustainable Peace in Bosnia
and Herzegovina**

July 27, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by the Levin Amendment to the 1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act (section 7 of Public Law 105–174) and section 1203 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I transmit herewith a report on progress made toward achieving benchmarks for a sustainable peace process.

In April 2000, I sent the third semiannual report to the Congress under Public Law 105–174, detailing progress towards achieving the ten benchmarks adopted by the Peace Implementation Council and the North Atlantic Council for evaluating implementation of the Dayton Accords. This report provides an updated assessment of progress on the benchmarks, covering the period January 1 through June 30, 2000.

In addition to the semiannual reporting requirements of Public Law 105–174, this report fulfills the requirements of section 1203 in connection with my Administration's request for funds for FY 2001.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 27, 2000.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With
Respect to Libya**

July 27, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 7, 1986.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 27, 2000.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report of the
National Institute of Building
Sciences**

July 27, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of section 809 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701j-2(j)), I transmit herewith the annual report of the National Institute of Building Sciences for fiscal year 1998.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 27, 2000.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Belize-United States Extradition
Treaty With Documentation**

July 27, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belize, signed at Belize on March 30, 2000.

In addition, I transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. As the report explains, the Treaty will not require implementing legislation.

The provisions in this Treaty follow generally the form and content of extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern extradition treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. Upon entry into force, the Treaty will replace the outdated Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America, signed at London, June 8, 1972, entered into force on October 21, 1976, and made applicable to Belize on January 21, 1977. That Treaty continued in force for Belize following independence.

This Treaty will, upon entry into force, enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of the two countries. It will thereby make a significant contribution to international law enforcement efforts against serious offenses, including terrorism, organized crime, and drug-trafficking offenses.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 27, 2000.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Remarks at a Reception for
Representative Richard A. Gephardt**

July 27, 2000

Thank you very much. [Applause] That's the way it will be on January 20th. [Laughter] Just one hand left, that's all. [Laughter]

Let me say first of all, I'm glad to see you all here. I'm delighted that you have contributed so much money to our cause, and I thank you for that. I want to thank Chevy Chase and Jayni for being here. They've been great friends to Hillary and me. I always tell everybody that I knew that I would be friends with this guy for life in our first two encounters. I mean, our first two meaningful encounters.

You may remember that I gave a very ill-fated speech in 1988 at the convention. [Laughter] I'm still looking for the chance to finish it. I've just never—[laughter].

And so everybody's making fun of me. And that summer I went up to Long Island, and I went to this charity softball game they have up there every summer between writers and artists. And the guy that was calling the game—they asked me to be an umpire. So I said, "Okay, I'll do that. I know how to play ball." And by then, I thought I was finished anyway, so I didn't mind making all those writers mad at me. [Laughter] "Strike," you know. [Laughter]

And so the guy starts ragging me about this speech I gave at the convention, and between innings, this big tall guy gets up out of the stands, walks down. I looked up, and I said, "Lo and behold, it's Chevy Chase." And he comes to me, and he says, "To hell with them all. I liked the speech." [Laughter] Now, only my mother said that to me before he did. [Laughter]

The second time I saw him was—to really have an encounter, was June 2d, 1992. A great night—I won the California primary, the Ohio primary, the New Jersey primary. It was the first time I knew for absolutely sure I'd be the nominee of the Democratic Party on the first ballot.

The whole story in the press that night was, "We did all these exit polls. Nobody's for Clinton. He's in third place. They really want Perot. He's dead." It's the first time anybody ever got nominated who was dead meat before he was even nominated. He came to my suite in Los Angeles, at the Biltmore Hotel, and said, "To hell with them. I'm still for you." [Laughter] I will never forget that as long as I live.

Now, he is, however, a terrible golfer. [Laughter] "Caddyshack" was not only a comedy; it was a fraud. [Laughter] But I can tell you truthfully, it's only because he never made an effort. He was actually quite extraordinary when he took a little instruction. [Laughter]

What is he doing back there, anyway? [Laughter]

Let me say on a more serious note, anything I have been able to do for our country would have been impossible without the leadership in the Congress—in the Senate, over these last 7½ years, that's George Mitchell and Tom Daschle, and in the House with Dick Gephardt.

I was sitting here looking at Dick and Jane tonight thinking about the time he came to Arkansas to give a speech in 1988, and I brought him back to the Governor's mansion, and we ate french fries. Do you remember that? It's really unhealthy—11:30 at night and we're eating french fries on the kitchen counter at home. And I really liked him.

But I have to tell you that I hope that in some way I have grown in this job I have had, because we're supposed to grow with

the experiences we have in life. I can tell you, I have never seen anybody—he was good when I first met him. But he's probably the best leader we have ever had, certainly in the 20th century, certainly in any of my experience and knowledge.

And if ever anybody deserved to be the Speaker of the House of Representatives and earned it, he did. He didn't quit the Congress. He didn't do something else. He didn't turn away. He didn't get bitter. He didn't get cynical. When we got beat in '94, he just kept working. And we worked together. We learned some things about how to work together from our defeat, and we got more effective. We picked up seats in '96.

Then we picked up seats in '98, the first time that we'd won in the mid-term of an incumbent President since the thirties, the first time in the 6th year of an incumbent President since 1822. Dick Gephardt did that with his leadership and the unity of our Democratic caucus.

And we're just five little seats away now. And soon, I think, it will become apparent that we have an excellent chance of winning, thanks in no small measure to your support. One of the people that I expect to help make up our new majority is here tonight, and he is the Congressman from a district that includes a little town in which I was born, and I want you to make him welcome, State Senator Mike Ross from Arkansas. Mike, come up here and weigh in. He's a good candidate, and if you want to write him an extra check, it will be all right with me. [Laughter]

Now, let me just say a few words—and I realize I'm preaching to the saved tonight. But it's very important that every one of you recognize that in all probability this will be a close race for the Presidency, for the House, and for the Senate. We have an excellent chance to win the House. We have a realistic chance to win the Senate. And I have always believed we would win the White House when the American people understood what the issues were and what the choices were. You have to make them understand that.

There are just three things you need to know about the 2000 election—only three. It is a huge election. We are deciding how to use our prosperity, and it is a stern test

of our character and judgment. And a lot of Americans don't believe that yet. The biggest problem we've got—a lot of them think that we couldn't mess this economy up if we tried. Everything is going along all right. You know, maybe we're electing a President of the student body. [Laughter] I'm telling you, it's a serious thing.

You have got to go out and remind people that how a nation handles its prosperity is, if anything, a sterner test of its judgment, its values, and its character than how you handle adversity. We all talk about, you know, what a miracle '92 was. I'll never forget President Bush derisively referring to me as the Governor of a small southern State. I was so naive, I thought it was a compliment. [Laughter] And I still do. [Laughter]

But you know, the country knew we had to change. They knew we—we didn't have an economic policy that worked. We didn't have a social policy that worked, from education to welfare to crime. We didn't have a political theory about how we could pull the country together. We didn't really have a clear vision about what our national role was going to be in the world. We knew we had to change.

The worst thing that can happen to the Democrats this year is if people think this is an election without consequence. So I'm just telling you, the first thing you've got to do is convince everybody you know anywhere in America that this is a profoundly important election. I've waited all my life to see my country in a position to paint a picture of the future, to realize our dreams for our children.

We've got that chance now. I don't know if it will ever come around again, and neither do you. And it may not happen in your lifetime. It is a big election. If people think that, we're halfway home.

The second thing you need to know about this election is, there are real and profound differences between the two parties and our candidates for President, Senate, and Congress, differences on economic policy, on crime policy, on health care policy, on education policy, right across the board.

The third thing you need to know—and this is all you need to know—is only the Democrats want you to know what those dif-

ferences are. What does that tell you about who you ought to vote for? [Laughter] I never thought I'd live to see it. All over America, these Republicans are moaning, crying these big crocodile tears about how mean and negative the Democrats are. These are people that brought us over the last 20 years the most vicious era of personal-destruction politics in modern American history, and what is it they're crying about? Is it because we're doing what they did? No. We're telling the voters how they voted. And they say, "Oh, this is so mean. It's so negative. How dare you tell people back home how I voted and what my positions are?" [Laughter]

Do you think I'm kidding? Just look at any race involving a Republican incumbent, and that ought to be sobering to you, because the only reason they have a chance to get away with this is because times are going so good, people are doing well. People are optimistic, and they're upbeat. And goodness knows, one of the best things about America is we always want to believe the best about people.

Well, I don't think we have to believe the worst about people. I don't want anybody saying anything bad about these folks. I want us to say that we assume they're honorable, good, and decent people, and they mean exactly what they say; they intend to do what exactly what they say. But they shouldn't be able to hide all they have done and said, starting at that Republican Convention and going all the way to November. And it's your job to make sure people know what the differences are, because they don't want you to know.

If we run ads in a State to say they voted against the Patients' Bill of Rights, they come back with ads that say, "How dare they say that. I voted for a Patients' Bill of Rights." There is a big difference between "a" and "the," all the difference in the wide world. And I could go on and on.

Now, I want you to think about this. And I want to say a word about the Vice President. I always tell everybody there are four reasons you ought to vote for him, and all but the first applies to all the rest of the Democrats.

The first is, never in the history of the Republic has anybody held the office of Vice President to such great effect with so much influence and so much impact. I noticed the other day that the prospective nominee of the Republican Party said he'd be a more conventional Vice President; Al Gore had done too much. Well, I don't want anybody working for me that's not trying to do too much. I thought that's what we hired on for. Did you hire us to take vacations?

I'm telling you, from breaking the tie on the economic plan in '93, which broke the back of the deficits and the big debts in this country and got us going again, to his leadership on technology, on energy, on empowering poor communities, there has never been anybody in this job that did so much good. There have been a lot of Vice Presidents that made great Presidents, but no one as Vice President who ever did remotely as much as Al Gore. He's the best qualified person to be the President of the United States, to run in my lifetime, and you ought to make sure every American voter knows that.

The second thing I want to tell you is that if you want to keep making enough money so you can afford to come to fundraisers like this—[laughter]—you should vote for us—[laughter]—because we'll keep this prosperity going. Their proposal—last year they passed this big old tax cut, and I vetoed it. And they went out in the August recess, and they tried to stir up the folks, and it turned out the people agreed with us. So this year they did something smarter. They did a salami tax cut. They just slashed it a little bit along. And every one of them sounds great. It's like going to a cafeteria, you know? If you pick everything off a tray that sounds good and looks good and you want to eat it all, by the time you eat it all, you're really sick—[laughter]—even though it was all good.

They have passed in this Congress, in the last 12 months, tax cuts totalling almost \$2 trillion, the entire projected surplus: no money to lengthen the life of Medicare and Social Security; no money to invest in our children's education; no money to do what we need to do in health care to provide Medicare prescription drugs; never mind the environment or medical research or any

emergencies that will come up along the way. They want to spend right on the front end our whole projected surplus.

Now, let me ask you this. This is like one of those—did you ever get one of those letters in the mail from Ed McMahon? [Laughter] “You may have won \$10 million.” Did you go out the next day and spend \$10 million? If you did, you should support Governor Bush and the Republicans. [Laughter] If not, you better stick with us and keep this economy going.

Now, this is serious. There was an article the other day in one of the major papers saying the voters saw no difference in the economic policies of the two candidates and the two parties. And I said, “You know, they keep saying I'm a good communicator. I must have totally flubbed here.” [Laughter] It's just because things are going well.

They had the White House for 12 years, and they quadrupled the debt of this country—4 times what we've run up in 200 years before. And they want to go right back to the same policy and convince you that things are so good, they couldn't mess it up if they tried.

You've got to make sure people know that. If the American people want that, if they want to read the Ed McMahon letter and say, “I'm going to spend that \$10 million right now. I hope it comes in”—[laughter]—then that's fine. It's a free country. It's a democracy. People ought to be able to get whatever they want.

But they don't want that, and you know it. So if they vote against our nominees from President to Senator to Congress, it's because they don't understand that that's a choice. You know that by two to one they will agree with us. You know they will.

If I ask you what you were going to make over the next decade—what are your projected earnings? Every one of you just think about it. Just think about it. What do you think you're going to make for 10 years?

Now, I'm going to set up a chair here and a desk, and I've got a notary public, and I want you to come up here right now and sign a contract spending it all. [Laughter] If you'd do that, you ought to vote for them; if not, you better stick with us. Now, that's a pretty clear choice.

The second thing I want to say to you is, we have differences over social policy that I think are profoundly important. We're for a Patients' Bill of Rights that's real, and they're not. We're for a Medicare prescription drug benefit that all of our seniors can buy who need it and our disabled Americans, and they're not. We want to close the gun show loophole, and they don't. The head of the NRA says they're going to have an office in the White House if they win the next election. They won't need it; they'll have their way, anyway.

Now, I'm not saying anything bad about them. That's the way they are. [Laughter] No—they believe that. They believe that. You don't have to be a bad person to have a difference of opinion. But it's very bad to try to obscure the difference of opinion and hope the voters don't know.

If the voters want, by a majority, to have a Congress that won't close the gun show loophole, that won't provide a genuine Medicare prescription drug benefit for our seniors, that won't pass a real Patients' Bill of Rights, that won't help our schools with new building and hire more teachers, and do these things that need to be done, they have a right to choose that. But they must know what the choice is. And if they don't, it's our fault, because if I were them, I wouldn't tell them either. [Laughter] They know if anybody finds out where they stand, they're sunk. So they have to paint these pretty pictures.

And the last and most important thing I want to tell you, more important than anything else, is that Al Gore and Dick Gephardt and our crowd, we want to take everybody along for the ride. That's why we're for hate crimes legislation. That's why we're for employment nondiscrimination legislation. That's why we support strong civil rights enforcement. That's why we want to extend the benefits of this economic prosperity to everybody in every corner of this country. That's why we want to raise the minimum wage. That's why our tax cuts are targeted toward helping people send their kids to college or pay for child care or pay for long-term care for the elderly and disabled. That's why we want to give a big income tax cut to low wage working people with three or more kids, be-

cause we think the people that are here working in this hotel tonight that could never afford to pay a ticket to come to a fundraiser like this deserve the same chance we do to send their kids to college and to live the American dream. That's who we are, and that's what we are.

So if you believe that we ought to keep the prosperity going and you want to extend it to everybody, if you believe that we're right in trying to do the sensible thing on health care policy and crime policy and environmental policy, and if you think we ought to take everybody along on a great ride in the 21st century, you need to make sure that Al Gore is the President and that Dick Gephardt is the next Speaker.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:17 p.m. in the State Room at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to comedian Chevy Chase and his wife, Jayni; Representative Gephardt's wife, Jane; former Senator George J. Mitchell; Gov. George W. Bush of Texas; Ed McMahon, spokesperson, Publishers' Clearinghouse Sweepstakes; Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president, National Rifle Association; and Republican Vice Presidential candidate Dick Cheney.

Interview With Israeli Television

July 27, 2000

Israeli-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, time is of the essence. How do you consider right now the relationship between Israel and the United States after the summit?

The President. Well, I think it's very strong. But I think in view of the courageous actions that the Prime Minister and the Israeli team took at the summit and in view of the withdrawal from Lebanon, I think some review and strengthening is in order.

I plan to have a comprehensive review to improve our strategic relationship. We're going to have talks that will start right away, with a view toward what we can do to ensure that Israel maintains its qualitative edge, modernizes the IDF, and meets the new threats that Israel and the other countries will face in the 21st century.

Secondly, I want to have a memorandum of understanding done as soon as possible with regard to our bilateral assistance, with a goal of making a long-term commitment to the necessary support to modernize the IDF. I think that's important.

The third thing that I think is significant is that we provide assistance, which we will do, to Israel, to upgrade its security in light of the withdrawal from Lebanon. And in that context, we also want to try to help the Government of Lebanon to strengthen its ability to control south Lebanon and to make progress toward a more normal existence. There are some other things that we're reviewing.

You know, I have always wanted to move our Embassy to west Jerusalem. We have a designated site there. I have not done so because I didn't want to do anything to undermine our ability to help to broker a secure and fair and lasting peace for Israelis and for Palestinians. But in light of what has happened, I've taken that decision under review, and I'll make a decision sometime between now and the end of the year on that.

And there are other things I think we have to be open to. But the main thing that I want the people of Israel to know is that the United States remains a friend and a partner, completely committed to the security and future of Israel, continuing to believe that a just and lasting peace is the best alternative and the only alternative for absolute security. But in the meanwhile, we have to do what we can to strengthen the capacity of Israel to defend itself and to deepen our bilateral relationship. So I intend to do that.

U.S. Embassy

Q. You mentioned the relocation of the Israeli—of the American Embassy and put it in Jerusalem. Would you consider it in any circumstances, even if there is no agreement?

The President. Well, I think I should stand on the words I said. I have always wanted to do it. I've always thought it was the right thing to do. But I didn't want to do anything to undermine the peace process, our ability to be an honest broker, which requires that we be accepted by both sides.

But it's something that I have taken under review now because of the recent events. And I think that's all I should say about it now.

Israeli-Palestinian Talks

Q. So what is the next move right now? As I understand, Prime Minister Barak is saying that he's willing to go to another summit. What do you think is the next move?

The President. Well, I think, first of all, we need to have their people start talking directly again, and I think they will at a certain level. And then the Prime Minister needs to have a little time, I think, in Israel to deal with governmental issues. And I would hope that Chairman Arafat and the other leaders in the Arab world will work to prepare their public for the proposition that there can be no agreement without courage and conscience but also honorable compromise. That's what agreements are.

The Palestinians did make some moves at these talks that have never been made before. And while I made it clear in my statement I thought that the Prime Minister was more creative and more courageous, they did make some moves, and the teams, the negotiating teams, for the first time in a formal setting where it counted, actually discussed these issues.

Now, you know, there had been side papers and discussions and all that over the last 7 years, since Oslo, but nothing like this, not ever. And there's a reason when the Oslo agreements were signed that these final status issues were put off until the end. They're hard. They're difficult. They're contentious. But the fact that they were actually there talking and the fact that I saw changes emerge on both sides, including within the Palestinian camp, I think is hopeful.

But what I want to do—first of all, I'll do anything I can. I'll be glad to convene another meeting. I'll go anywhere, do anything, anything I can. But—

Q. Will you consider a visit to Israel?

The President. Well, I just want to defer making any statements until I make a decision about what is the best thing for the peace process. I will act as soon as I can be helpful. We're doing things all the time, including now, today, as we speak. But I don't

want to do something that's not helpful. And if we're going to make a difference, then the next time we meet, both sides have to be prepared to make the decisions necessary to conclude an agreement. And as soon as I'm convinced that's a good possibility, I'll do what I can to make it happen.

Jerusalem

Q. You know, the discussion about Jerusalem during the summit opened Pandora's box in Israel. Can you assure the Israeli people that Barak isn't going to divide Jerusalem?

The President. Let me say this. First of all, all the discussions that were held were private, and I have to honor that. What the Israelis and Palestinians decide to say about it is their affair. But I can't be in the position of violating the trust of either side.

What I believe is that Prime Minister Barak in no way ever compromised the vital interests of the security of the State of Israel. One thing I think that I can say without violating either side is that the most progress in the talks was made in the area of security, where there was a surprising amount of consensus and an understanding that neither side would be secure after a peace agreement unless both were secure and unless both worked together. And there was no interest, fundamentally, in the Palestinians in having a weak Israel, a vulnerable Israel, an Israel unable to defend itself; and that the Palestinians would be stronger if they were working together.

I think if there is one thing that should be encouraging to the people of Israel, of all political parties and persuasions, it would be that. There was a clear willingness to try to come to grips with what were very different positions on this issue when they met and come together. And I was quite encouraged by that.

You know, Jerusalem is a difficult issue. But I believe that the Prime Minister did everything he could to reach an agreement while preserving the vital interests of Israel.

Q. Israel is afraid that if Barak already made some concessions right now, and that the Palestinians didn't make any concession—in Jerusalem—so many people are afraid that if the negotiations will resume,

Israel will be asked to do, to make some more concessions. Can you tell the Israeli people that you wouldn't ask Barak to give much more than what he already was ready to give?

The President. Well, first of all, I don't think that he will ever do anything that he believes undermines the vital interest of the people of Israel and Jerusalem. And it is true that while the Palestinians, themselves, didn't make some moves on Jerusalem, that Israel did more, but nothing that I think undermined the vital interests of the people of Israel.

And I think that is an issue where—and frankly, most of the discussion involved ideas embraced not formally by either side. And they are not bound by it. So I believe that everybody pretty well knows right now that there won't necessarily be a lot more movement of the same kind. And we may have to have a resolution in some ways that no one has quite thought of yet.

But I kept telling the Palestinians, and I will say again to the world, that you cannot make an agreement over something as important as a city that is the holiest place in the world to the Jews, to the Christians, and to the—one of the holiest places in the world to the Muslims—if it is required of one side to say "I completely defeated the interest of the other side." If either side gets to say that at the end, there won't be an agreement, there can't be.

There has to be a way to identify the legitimate interests—and there are legitimate interests in both sides, in Jerusalem—in such a way that they are met and honored and that the sanctity of the Holy City is uplifted. There has to be a way to do that. But you know, it's not for me to design a plan. They have to come to it. And I think they will come to it if the people of Israel, and if the Palestinians will give their leaders a clear message that they trust them not to compromise their vital interest or their security; but beyond that, to be as flexible as possible to try to honorably accommodate each other's true interests.

Israeli Domestic Reaction

Q. During the talks, did you consider the possibility that maybe Barak's concession will not pass a referendum?

The President. I did. Of course, he has to be the final judge of that.

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—help him with that.*

The President. Excuse me?

Q. You can always advise him and help him with that, too.

The President. Well, if they reach an agreement that they both believe is right and honorable and protects their vital interests and their security, obviously I would do whatever I could to persuade the people to support it. I don't know that I would have much influence, but I would do whatever I could. I would certainly never countenance an agreement that I thought undermined Israel's security, but you don't have to worry about that. I don't think there was ever anything that was clearer to me in these negotiations. The people of Israel may differ with their Prime Minister on some of the details, but they should never question whether he had the long-term security and vital interests of Israel uppermost in his mind. That was clear. And as I said, to me something that should be very encouraging is that they really did make a lot of progress on the security issue. And Israel was, I think, the big winner there, but only because the Palestinians recognize that their security will be tied to Israel's security if they make an agreement.

President's Role in the Peace Process

Q. I'm sure that you know that the majority of Israeli, the people admire your devotion to the peace process. And they ask themselves today if President Clinton can't bring peace, which President of the United States will do it?

The President. Well, I would hope that any President would honor America's historic commitment to Israel and our decades of involvement in the Middle East and our attempt to be fair to the legitimate interests of all the people of the region, including the Palestinians. I don't know if anybody else will ever put the time in on this that I have or have the kind of personal, almost religious conviction I have about it.

But keep in mind, this is an evolutionary process. If we don't finish—and I believe we can, and I still believe we will—but if we don't finish this year, the negotiating teams for the two sides and the attitudes of the peo-

ple will be in a different place than they were because of all that has happened over the last 7 years, and especially because of what happened at Camp David, as long as there is a constructive attitude taken about it and a deepened resolve to be frank with the public and that this is especially important for the Palestinians.

Q. You are known as the tireless master of negotiating. What happened there? How can both leaders resist the Clinton charm?

The President. I'm afraid my charm and my reasoning abilities, at least for just 15 days, cannot compare with the thousands of years of history that go to the core of the identity of Israelis and Palestinians, as regards Jerusalem. But that's okay. We made a lot of progress. We got people to talk about it, to deal with it, to think about it. And I hope I prompted a lot of thinking about all the various options available to them. There is more than one way to resolve this in a way that's honorable for everyone.

But I must tell you, when we started these negotiations, I didn't think we had a one-in-10 chance to succeed. And we actually got more done than I thought we would.

I called this summit because I was afraid that the lack of progress was spinning out of control. The parties, after all, promised each other they would reach an agreement by the middle of September. And they'd never even met to formally, frankly, openly discuss these issues—ever.

So I think when you look at it in that context, it's—you know, if I were just sitting on the outside, and I didn't know any more about it, I would be profoundly disappointed. I'd say, "They've had 7 years. What have they been doing all this time?" Well, you know what they've—we've had a lot of progress in the last 7 years, an enormous amount. But these final status issues were put off until the end because both sides knew they were potentially explosive and agonizingly difficult.

So it wasn't really a matter of charm. Believe me, if I could have prevailed by charming, cajoling, arguing, or just depriving them of sleep, we would have a deal. The last 2 nights I went to bed at 5 in the morning both nights. I did my best so I would be the

last person standing on both sides, you know, of all the sides there.

But we just couldn't get there. And we won't get there until each side decides. And this is the decision I think Prime Minister Barak made. That he would go as far as he could without making any specific commitments, because we had it organized so that neither side would be exposed.

So for people to say that he's bound by all these commitments, I don't think that's an accurate reflection of the way I conducted the negotiations. I went out of my way, especially as regards Jerusalem, to set it up so that if either side were willing to float some ideas or entertain some ideas, they wouldn't be exposed, and they could always take them back if there was no agreement.

But both sides—and this applies to the Palestinians, they're going to have to think about this—they have to decide that there is a solution which meets their vital interests, that does not permit them, after it is over, to say, "I won, and they lost." You have to be able to be able to say, when this is over, "We won. Peace won. Our children won. The future won." We may—yes, if we can get 100 percent of everything we wanted, no. Is it an honorable compromise that preserves our vital interests and enhances our security—not just maintains it, enhances it, yes. That has to be the test. The test has to be that our vital interests are preserved; our security is enhanced; our future is brighter; and neither side suffered a cataclysmic defeat. That's not what a negotiation is.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia

Q. Correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems to be that Egypt and Saudi Arabia didn't help to persuade Arafat to make the necessary concessions to have an agreement. It seems to be that this—both allies of the United States in this crucial moment couldn't deliver the goods.

The President. Well, I think that the truth is that because this had never been discussed before between the two parties and because when we went into the negotiations, they were usually secret or sacrosanct, that I'm not sure, number one, that they thought they knew enough to know what to ask for, although I did my best to try to get them to

help, in general terms, before the process started. But I'm not sure they knew enough to know explicitly what to ask for, which won't be the case if we meet again, because we're down the road enough now.

And number two, I do believe that the public opinion among the Palestinians, and throughout the Middle East, had not even sufficiently discussed all these issues. You can see it was still operating at the high level of rhetoric, you know. And at some point, there has to be a way of saying, "We have won by making sure the Israelis didn't lose." And the Israelis have to be able to say, "We have won by making sure the Palestinians didn't lose." And that's—it's harder to sell.

When you're dealing with something as involved as Jerusalem in these peace talks, the only person who's going to get cheered is the person that says, no, no, no. And that's an easy sell. You go out and say, no, and you can get up the crowd, and they'll cheer you. But if that is the attitude which prevails, then we won't get peace.

Palestinian Statehood

Q. There is right now in the Congress some proposal to eliminate or prevent the use, aid to the Palestinians if they decide unilaterally to declare about statehood. Hillary Clinton, your wife, is for this proposal. What is your approach?

The President. Well, the bill has just been introduced. We don't give a great deal of aid there, as you know. And a lot of it is —

Q. But it's very symbolic.

The President. Very symbolic. Well, let me just say this. I think there should not be a unilateral declaration. And if there is, our entire relationship will be reviewed, not confined to that. So I don't—I make it a practice normally, when the bills are first introduced and I haven't even reviewed them, not to comment. But I think it would be a big mistake to take a unilateral action and walk away from the peace process. And if it happens, there will inevitably be consequences, not just here but throughout the world, and things will happen. I would review our entire relationship, including but not limited to that.

Assistance After an Agreement

Q. If there will be agreement, what kind of support the Israeli people can expect from the United States?

The President. I will do my best to get the maximum amount of support. One of the reasons I wanted very much to get the agreement this time is that it would give us more time to pass an aid package through Congress. But if there is an agreement, Israel will have further security needs. There will be human costs involved. There will have to be some sort of international fund set up for the refugees.

There is, I think, some interest, interestingly enough, on both sides, in also having a fund which compensates the Israelis who were made refugees by the war, which occurred after the birth of the State of Israel. Israel is full of people, Jewish people, who lived in predominantly Arab countries who came to Israel because they were made refugees in their own land.

That's another piece of good news I think I can reveal out of the summit. The Palestinians said they thought those people should be eligible for compensation, as well. So we'll have to set up a fund, and we will contribute. I went to the G-8 in Okinawa in part to give them a report, and I asked the Europeans and the Japanese to contribute, as well. And there will be other costs associated with this. So it will not be inexpensive.

Also, if there is an agreement and if the Palestinians set up a state pursuant to an agreement, Israel has a strong interest in seeing it be economically stronger and more self-sufficient, a better trading partner, not just a supply of labor but also a country capable of buying Israeli products in greater detail and growing together in the future. So there will be economic issues that have to be dealt with.

I will try to get as much support as I possibly can for the United States but also as much support as I possibly can from Europe, from Japan, and from other people in the world.

Middle East Peace Summit

Q. With your permission, Mr. President, can you take us inside Camp David and de-

scribe us one of the crucial moments, one of the crucial crises?

The President. Well, I think the only thing I can talk about without revealing the substance of the talks, which I have promised not to do, is the first time the talks almost broke up. Right before I went to Okinawa, I thought the talks were over. I even went by and said goodbye to Chairman Arafat. And I went by and said goodbye to Prime Minister Barak. And I was walking around talking to the Palestinian and Israeli peace teams. And it was obvious to me that they did not want to go and that they feared that, if they left in the position the talks were then in, that there would be an enormous harshness and recrimination, and it could wind up being a net setback, if you will, for the peace process.

And then, all of a sudden, it became obvious to me that they didn't want to go, that they wanted to keep trying, that they thought it was still possible. So I went back around; I made two more visits. By then, it's very late at night, and I'm leaving at dawn the next day. It was like 1:30 a.m. or 1:45 a.m. I made two more visits to both Prime Minister Barak and his team and to Chairman Arafat and his team.

And I finally concluded that they really didn't want to quit. And so I invited them to stay. And I said that I had to go to the G-8 because the United States had some strong interest in Okinawa—it's a main base for a lot of our forces in the Pacific—and because I owed it to my partners to go there to my last meeting and because I wanted to ask them for money to help the peace process, but that if they would stay, I would leave Secretary Albright behind in charge, and they could keep talking, and they wanted to do it.

That was, I think, the pivotal moment which turned this from a negative result to a positive result, even though we didn't get an agreement. Because in the next few days, they relaxed; they began to talk. The Palestinians began to open up a little bit, and we began to get a sense that at least how we might get an agreement, even if the parties couldn't reach it this time. In my mind, looking back on it, I think that was a pivotal moment.

President's Legacy

Q. Finally, I wanted to ask you, many critics of yours are saying that you are looking desperately for the missing chapter of your legacy, and maybe you tried to overcome the impeachment process. Is the Middle East issue the missing chapter of this legacy?

The President. No. Look, you know, I'm not proud of the personal mistake I made, but I'm proud of what happened in the impeachment process. As far as I'm concerned, we saved the United States Constitution. And I think history will record it favorably to me and unfavorably to those who did it. And I think I have a pretty good legacy here with our economy, with our social progress on crime, on welfare, on education, on health care for the elderly, for children. And I am proud of what I have done in the Middle East, in the Balkans, in Northern Ireland, in Africa, in Latin America.

This has nothing to do with my legacy. All my life, I have wanted to see peace in the Middle East, and I promised myself when I got elected President, I would work until the last day to achieve it. This is not about me. It's about the children who live in the Middle East. It's about whether those children will be living together or living apart, whether there will be fighting or learning together.

Q. And you're convinced it can be done?

The President. Absolutely. And if it doesn't happen while I'm here, I just want to know that I have done everything I possibly could to make sure it will happen as soon as possible. But I am absolutely convinced that we can do it and that we should do it before the end of the year, because the parties have committed themselves to this September deadline. The parties came to Camp David; nobody had to come. Prime Minister Barak thought it was a good time, and I knew if we didn't do it, we would never get around to dealing with this.

We have a saying in America, this is like going to the dentist without having your gums deadened, you know? It's like having somebody pull your teeth with no painkiller. This is not easy. This was hard for these people. But if we hadn't started—you know, you never get to the end of the road unless you

get out on the road and take the first step. And this was a huge, important thing.

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much.

The President. You're welcome.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 5:42 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for later broadcast and was embargoed by the Office of the Press Secretary until 3 p.m., July 28. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks on Arrival in Providence, Rhode Island, and an Exchange With Reporters

July 28, 2000

National Economy

The President. Let me say, first of all, I'm delighted to be back in Rhode Island with Senator Reed and Congressman Kennedy—and Senator Kennedy here showing good family support.

I have some good news to report. Today we learned that our economy grew at a vigorous 5.2 percent during the last quarter. This is a credit to the hard work of the American people and further confirmation that we are on the right economic path, with stronger and steadier growth than at any time since the 1960's, with 22 million new jobs, and the lowest unemployment rate in over 30 years.

Growth over the past 7½ years has now averaged 4 percent. That's the best growth rate America has had since the Kennedy-Johnson years. Unemployment here in Rhode Island has been cut in half since 1993 to 4 percent. The growth in the last quarter has been driven by extraordinary levels of private sector investment and increased productivity on the part of the American people. This has been the trend now for 7 years, thanks to the strategy of fiscal discipline and investing in our people and our future we adopted back in 1993.

This good economic news is more proof that we should stay on the path of fiscal discipline and not endanger our prosperity by passing one expensive tax cut after another until, when totaled up, they would spend

every single dime of our projected surplus for a decade.

Already, the Republicans have passed tax cuts this year that would drain a trillion dollars from the projected surplus. Now, they're going to Philadelphia in support of tax cuts that would drain well over another trillion dollars, over and above what they've already passed from the surplus.

Simple math says that one plus one equals two, and \$2 trillion are too many reckless tax cuts. It's too big and too irresponsible for our economy. And I would remind the American people again: This is tax cuts that are permanent against surpluses that are just projected.

I said yesterday, and I'll say again: If you've got one of those letters from Ed McMahon saying, you may have won \$10 million, would you go out and spend \$10 million the next day? Well, if you would, you should support their program. But if not, you ought to stick with what works.

So when you're listening to what they say in Philadelphia, ask yourself and, more importantly, ask them: Can we really afford \$2 trillion in risky tax cuts? Can we afford not to leave a single penny to strengthen Medicare and Social Security against the day when the baby boomers retire? Can we really afford not to save a penny for a Medicare prescription drug benefit? Can we really afford to do nothing for education, for school construction, and should we give up trying to get America out of debt by 2012? Can we really afford to go back to the bad old days of debt and deficits and double-digit mortgage rates? There is a better way.

I have proposed and, indeed, all our candidates and our leaders in Congress support affordable tax cuts, including carefully targeted marriage penalty relief, tax cuts for college tuition, for long-term care for the elderly and disabled, for child care, to help ordinary working people save for retirement; and tax cuts to spur investment in new school construction and in underdeveloped areas of America.

The tax cuts we have proposed will give middle class families substantially more benefits than the Republican plan at less than 25 percent of the cost of their total tax cuts. Under our plan, we'll still have the resources

we need to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit, to lengthen the life of Social Security and Medicare, to pay for the baby boomers retirement and to get this country out of debt by 2012, so that we can keep our economy going.

Our plan will keep interest rates at least one percent lower over the next decade than their plan. Let me tell you what that's worth to ordinary people. That's worth \$250 billion in lower mortgage payments, \$30 billion in lower car payments, \$15 billion in lower college loan payments. That's a pretty good tax cut itself, over and above our direct proposal.

The strong economic news today is just the latest indication that fiscal discipline has put America on the right track. And on my watch, we'll stay on track.

The rest of the decision is up to the American people. But we will not squander this surplus as long as I am here. We will not. Instead, we should have the right kind of tax cuts to put our people and our children's future first.

Thank you very much.

U.S. Embassy in Israel

Q. Mr. President, are you going to move the Embassy to Jerusalem, or take any other steps to reward the Israelis and punish the Palestinians over Camp David?

The President. First of all, I have nothing to add to what I said yesterday. I think we released the transcript of my interview with Israeli television. We are working aggressively to get these talks back on track. The two parties are meeting, as you know, and has been widely reported.

I meant what I said yesterday, and I reaffirm it. I think what we should all do is to recognize that Prime Minister Barak took some far-reaching steps. The two parties discussed things they had never discussed before. They came closer together than they had ever come before. They still have a ways to go. And I think we need to support the friends of peace and this process in every way that we can. That's what I intend to do.

Thank you.

Chelsea Clinton

Q. Mr. President, any comment on Chelsea taking a semester off?

The President. No, she's actually—Stanford is on the quarter system. They do three quarters. So she doesn't have to take that much time off. She's already got way more credits than she needs to graduate, and she wants to be with her mother and me for these last few months of our time together.

You know, she spent about—well, now, more than a third of her life in the White House, and she wants to have some more days there. She wants to be able to help her mother. And she wants to be able to keep company with her father, which is always a surprising thing when your children grow up and they want to spend time with you. I think Hillary and I are immensely gratified by that.

I hope that she enjoys her time here. And it's been a great comfort to Hillary and me to have her around more. I just think it's just a family decision that she wanted to make, and she can still graduate on time with her class, and so I'm glad she's doing it.

Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:30 p.m. at Theodore Francis Green State Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 21 *

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on May 3 and continuing through June 30.

July 22

In the morning, the President participated in a tree planting ceremony in the garden

*This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

at the Bankoku Shinryokan convention center in Okinawa, Japan. Later, he attended sessions of the G-8 summit in the Conference Hall at the convention center, ending in the afternoon.

In the evening, the President attended a G-8 reception and dinner in the Shuri Castle.

The President nominated Miguel D. Lausell to be a member of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

July 23

In the morning, the President attended the final session of the G-8 summit in the Conference Hall at the Bankoku Shinryokan convention center.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening. Later, he went to Camp David, MD.

In the evening, the President met with his foreign policy team concerning the ongoing Middle East Peace Summit. Later, he met separately with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority, and then met with members of the Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams into the following morning.

July 24

In the morning, the President met with members of the Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams, ending in the afternoon.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Z. Plavin to be a member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margrethe Lundsager to be Alternate U.S. Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund.

The President announced his intention to nominate Geoff Bacino to be member of the National Credit Union Administration.

The President announced the appointment of Tieraona Low Dog to the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy.

July 25

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Fayetteville, AR, and in the evening, they returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jonathan Talisman to be Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard W. Danielson, Robert A. Glassman, Craig W. Hartzell, Arthur M. Lopez, and Ruth Lillian Young as members of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Ned W. Bandler, Chaskel Besser, and Rachmiel Liberman as members of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.

The White House announced that the President directed the Department of Health and Human Services to release Low Income Home Energy Assistance program emergency funds for States affected by a heat wave.

July 26

The President announced his intention to nominate Sue Bailey to be Administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

July 27

The President announced the nomination of Edward Kaufman and Alberto J. Mora to be members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President declared a major disaster in Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on July 14–18.

The White House announced that President-elect Vincente Fox of Mexico will visit the White House on August 24.

July 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Providence, RI, arriving in the afternoon. Later, he traveled to Boston, MA.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his July 27th nomination of Troy Hamilton Cribb to be Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, International Trade Administration at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his July 27th nomination of Robert N. Shamansky to be

a member of the National Security Education Board.

The President announced his July 27th nomination of Paula M. Junghans to be Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his July 27th nomination of James H. Atkins to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The President amended the disaster declaration for Minnesota issued on June 27 to include assistance for families and local governments victimized by the deadly tornado that struck the town of Granite Falls in Yellow Medicine County on July 25.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 25

Margrethe Lundsager, of Virginia, to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of 2 years, vice Barry S. Newman, term expired.

Jonathan Talisman, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Donald C. Lubick, resigned.

Submitted July 26

Geoff Bacino, of Illinois, to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for the term of 6 years, expiring August 2, 2005, vice Norman E. D'Amours, term expired.

Edward E. Kaufman, of Delaware, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2003 (reappointment).

Alberto J. Mora,
of Florida, to be a member of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors for a term expir-
ing August 13, 2003 (reappointment).

David Z. Plavin,
of New York, to be a member of the Federal
Aviation Management Advisory Council for
a term of one year (new position).

Sue Bailey,
of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Na-
tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration,
vice Ricardo Martinez, resigned.

Withdrawn July 26

John R. Simpson,
of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the
U.S. Parole Commission for a term of 6 years
(reappointment), which was sent to the Sen-
ate on July 19, 1999.

Submitted July 27

Christine M. Arguello,
of Colorado, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the
Tenth Circuit, vice John C. Porfilio, retired.

James H. Atkins,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the Federal
Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a
term expiring September 25, 2004 (re-
appointment).

Jose Collado,
of Florida, to be a member of the Advisory
Board for Cuba Broadcasting for a term ex-
piring December 20, 2000, vice Marjorie B.
Kampelman, resigned.

Jose Collado,
of Florida, to be a member of the Advisory
Board for Cuba Broadcasting for a term ex-
piring December 20, 2003 (reappointment).

Paula M. Junghans,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney
General, vice Loretta Collins Argrett, re-
signed.

David Stewart Cercone,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice
Robert J. Cindrich, upon elevation.

Troy Hamilton Cribb,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assis-
tant Secretary of Commerce, vice Robert S.
LaRussa.

Harry Peter Litman,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice
Alan N. Bloch, retired.

Robert N. Shamansky,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National Se-
curity Education Board for a term of 4 years
(reappointment).

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released July 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Na-
tional Security Adviser Jim Steinberg on the
President's meeting with Prime Minister
Mori of Japan

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Na-
tional Security Adviser for International Eco-
nomic Affairs Lael Brainard on the G-8 sum-
mit

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of
Philippine President Joseph Estrada

Text of a letter from Chief of Staff John
Podesta to House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert
on willingness to meet with congressional
leaders

Text of a memorandum from Office of Man-
agement and Budget Director Jacob J. Lew
to the President on the effect of congres-
sional legislative action on the budget surplus

Fact sheet: U.S.-Japan Bilateral Issues

Fact sheet: Majority of G-8 Mobilizes Bil-
lions To Combat Infectious Disease in De-
veloping Countries

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Dis-
trict Judges for the District of Arizona

Released July 23

Transcript of a press briefing by National
Economic Council Director Gene Sperling
on the education initiative for developing
countries

Fact sheet: President Clinton and the Okinawa Summit: Protecting the Global Environment

Released July 24

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released July 25

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Vajpayee of India

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President directed the Department of Health and Human Services to release Low Income Home Energy Assistance program emergency funds

Released July 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released July 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Mesic and Prime Minister Racan of Croatia

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President-elect Fox of Mexico

Statement by the Press Secretary on the 10th anniversary of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Belarus

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Tenth Circuit

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judges for the Western District of Pennsylvania

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved July 25

S. 1892 / Public Law 106-248

To authorize the acquisition of the Valles Caldera, to provide for an effective land and wildlife management program for this resource within the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes

Approved July 26

S. 986 / Public Law 106-249

Griffith Project Prepayment and Conveyance Act

Approved July 27

H.R. 3544 / Public Law 106-250

Pope John Paul II Congressional Gold Medal Congressional Gold Medal Act

H.R. 3591 / Public Law 106-251

To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan in recognition of their service to the Nation

Approved July 28

H.R. 4391 / Public Law 106-252

Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act

H.R. 4437 / Public Law 106-253

Semipostal Authorization Act